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King discusses Syria visit with Saudi crown prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Friday held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz via telephone on the outcome of his visit to Syria, Jordan Television reported. King Abdullah and Prince Abdullah also reviewed bilateral relations and regional and international issues of concern. Earlier, the King spoke with UAE President Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak by phone and briefed them on his successful



Hizbollah wounds SLA militiaman

MARIAYOUN (AP) - Lebanese guerrillas detorated a roadside bomb in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon Friday, killing an Israeli-allied militiaman and seriously wounding a militia officer, Lebanese security officials said. The Iranianbacked Hizbollah guerrilla group took responsibility for the road side bomb that exploded as Lt. Col. Joseph Karam of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) was travelling in his car outside the town of Jezzine. A Hizbollah statement said the bombing was ordered by the group's secretary general, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, to kill SLA leaders. Karam's driver died immediately, while the SLA colonel, also known by his nom de guerre Alloush, suffered serious injuries in various parts of his body, said the officials, without elaborating. Karam is the commander of SLA troops in Jezzine, 20 kilometres north of Marjayoun, the main town in occupied southern Lebanon.

Volume 24 Number 7126

AMMAN SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1999, MUHARRAM 8, 1420

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

King hails talks with Assad as 'turning point' in Jordan-Syria ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Abdullah concluded a two-day visit to Syria on Thursday by hailing his trip and talks with President Hafez Assad as "a turning point in bilateral relations on all fronts to be strengthened in a manner that will sufeguard the interests of the Jordanian and Syrian people and the Arab Nation

"This visit was extremely successful and marks a turning point in our relations, as we see eye to eye on all issues." King Abdullah upon his return to Amman.

"Vie agree that we have a common future in the Arab Nation," the King said, adding the visit "removed any lingering barriers and laid down the foundation for a fruitful future of bilateral cooperation."

Expressing full satisfaction with the outcome of the visit, the King said the results of the talks with Assad will be revealed in the coming few

King Abdullah said the Jordanian delegation felt that Assad and the Syrian leadership are keen on opening all for coordination between the two countries, adding that Damascus and

Amman are in agreement on the need to promote bilateral ties in all fields.

Expressing his appreciation of the Syrian leadership's welcome and hospitality accorded to the Jordanian delegation, King Abdullah said Assad is enthusiastic about bolstering relations. He also noted that he has established very strong ues with Assad's son, Bashar, whom the King said has displayed a deep interest in strengthening bilateral rela-

The president's son accompanied King Abdullah on a tour of Damascus' quarters.

In remarks to the press, King Abdullah said President Assad has directed the Syrian government to immediately consider outstanding issues of concern to the two countries through a series of meetings of officials from both sides. Delegation sources said the

Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, which has not convened for years, is scheduled to hold a meeting in the first week of June.

King Abdullah expressed bope that the stalled peace process will be revived following the Israeli elections

next month and emphasised

that Jordan calls for the full implementation of the signed accords. The King also reiterated Jordan's support for the

Palestinian people's rights. King Abdullah said Jordan supports Syria's efforts to regain its rights and backs Damascus' calls for the resumption of the peace talks from the point they reached under Israel's previous Labour government.

The Syrian press hailed the Monarch's visit as "a turning point in Syrian-Jordanian rela-

Al Thawra daily said "the visit will lead to positive results in terms of cooperation and a lifting of the obstacles which darkened relations. Syria opens its arms to our Jordanian brothers and will spare no effort to consolidate relations between our two fraternal countries."

The Tishrin daily said: "Solidarity and cooperation are a common interest, and positive results of the visit will block the road to those counting on dividing the Arabs."

Upon his departure from Damascus, King Abdullah sent a cable to Assad expressing his gratitude and appreciation of the hospitality accord-

delegation and his satisfaction with the talks which, he said, were conducted in a constructive atmosphere. The King also said Jordan is determined to join Assad in efforts to safe-

guard pan-Arab interests in

general and those of Jordan

and Syria in particular. King Abdullah told the press that talks with Libvan leader Muammar Qadhafi during his recent visit to Libya were extremely successful and yielded positive results serving the interests of the Jordanian and Libyan peoples.

With regard to Iraq, the King reiterated Jordan's support for an end to the Iraqi people's sufferings caused by the U.N. sanctions. He reaffirmed Jordan's interest in safeguarding Iraq's sovereign-ty and territorial integrity. Meanwhile, French busi-

ness circles in Paris on Thursday said King Abdullah will meet the heads of major French companies during a state visit to Paris in Novem-

It will be his second visit to France this year. The King will be in France in June on a working visit, according to informed French sources.



Firefighters and army engineering squads on Friday attempt to clear the dehris of the ruined offices of Serhian state television and search for any survivors under the wreckage in downtown Belgrade. The offices of the station were hit by NATO missiles earlier on Friday. A green sbeet, right, covers the body of a dead employee of the television station IAP photol

Netanyahu accused of igniting tension in Jerusalem over decision to close PLO offices

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's decision to shut several offices Palestinian headquarters in occupied Jerusalem, was denounced as a pre-election ploy Friday which risked rais-

ing tensions. President Ezer Weizman joined Palestinians, Israeli left-wing politicians and commentators in condemning the potentially explosive move just four weeks before Israelis go to the polls to choose a new

parliament and prime minister. 'Regarding Orient House, I don't think we should blow up such a sensitive issue as Jerusalem," said Weizman, a frequent critic of Netanyahu's hardline stance towards the

Palestinians. "Before knowing what govemment we will have after the elections to pursue the peace process with the Palestinians. we bave to calm down a bit."

he said. Israel boosted the police presence in occupied east Jerusalem on Friday amid fears the decision to close several PLO offices at Orient House could trigger Palestin-

ian violence. Internal Security Minister

House would be closed once the necessary legal steps were

gathered enough evidence to prove before an Israeli court that the offices threatened with closure were operating on behalf of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

He said that because of the legal moves, the actual orders to close the offices may not come for "several days." Kahalani did not rule out

resorting to force if necessary to close the offices, but nevertheless tried to play down possible Palestinian unrest. "We are ready to deal with

rioting, but I don't think there will be any immediate clashes," he said. Netanyahu ordered the clo-

sure after a meeting Wednesday at Orient House between Palestinian officials and Arab diplomats that he claimed violated agreements barring PNA activity in Jerusalem.

"We are not ready to have Orient House, situated in the capital of the state of Israel. serve as the Palestinian foreign ministry," he said Thurs-

Netanyahu, who is lagging in opinion polls behind his main rival for the premiership. Avigdor Kahalani said "three

or four" offices in Orient Labour Party chief Ehud Barak, has tried to make an alleged Palestinian threat to Israeli sovereignty over his reelection campaign.

Opposition Labour MP Slomo Ben Ami denounced Netanyahu's move on Orient House as "nationalistic machismo" and accused him of using the Jerusalem issue as an "election propaganda weapon."

Hatem Abdul Khader, who represents Arah east Jerusalem in the Palestinian legislative assembly, said Netanyahu was playing with

"We will do everything to ensure the failure of Netanyahu's attempts to provoke confrontations before the

In September 1996, Netanyahu's decision to open a new entrance to an archaeological tunnel outside the Al Aqsa Mosque complex in Jerusalem triggered three days of clashes in which more than 80 people died.

Visiting Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov also expressed reservations about Israel's decision.

"Ali issues affecting Jerusalem are sensitive, which is why they must be resolved

through negotiation," be said after talks with Netanyahu. Nevertheless, the political

commentator for Israel's sec-Emmanuel Rosen, remarked that Netanyahu had seized the initiative from Labour for the first time in the campaign for the May 17 elections.

'The prime minister is much more at ease with an issue such as Jerusalem, on which he has wide support among voters, than on a military withdrawal from Lebanon," he

Kahalani, however, denied the election campaign had influenced Netanyahu's deci-

Under the 1993 Oslo peace accords, the PNA is authorised to operate only in agreed parts of the West Bank and Gaza

The political status of Arab east Jerusalem, which Israel occupied in 1967 and later illegally annexed as part of its capital, was to be resolved in future negotiations.

Israel insists that east Jerusalem is part of its "undivided eternal capital" -- a declaration not recognised by the international community, while the Palestinians hope to make the sector the capital of a state of their own.

NATO hits Serb TV, 10 killed

Alliance rejects Milosevic offer; oil embargo imposed

Agencies

NATO PLANES attacked targets in Kosovo on Friday after alliance strikes killed at least 10 people in reducing a Serbian state television building to rubble in a pre-dawn attack.

The state television station RTS resumed broadcasting six hours after the attack.

Meanwhile, NATO leaders meeting in Washington added an oil embargo to their campaign against Yugoslav Presideni Slobodan Milosevic on

The 19-nation alliance, opening a summit to mark its 50th anniversary, declared it would impose an embargo on petroleum products in a move that analysts said could provoke a showdown with Russia (see separate story).

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, reporting from the provincial capital Pristina, said NATO planes fired at least 15 missiles in areas

northeast and south of Pristina in the late afternoon.

It said NATO planes fired two missiles in the area of Ajvalija village, south of Pristing, and three missiles on the Grmija picnic grounds, northeast of the city.

Tanjug also said blasts were heard near the suburbs of Pomazatin and Belacevac, around the Statina civilian airport, and around Goles in the Liplian area, southwest of Pristina. It gave no further

details. In central Belgrade, rescue workers searched for survivors in the remains of the four-storey television build-

Television film taken inside the building shortly after the blast showed grisly scenes of mangled bodies trapped in the ruins and badly injured people being pulled out.

Smoke was still rising from the rubble on Friday after-

The television's transmitter

appeared largely undamaged but all the windows on an adjacent building -- a children's cultural centre --- were blown out.

Minister without portfolio Goran Matic said 10 people were killed and at least 20 were feared buried in the rub-

This is a monstrous crime without precedent in history," Matic said on Politika television, another pro-government station briefly taken off the air by the blast.

The Committee 10 Protect Journalists (CPJ) Friday condemned NATO's bombing of Serb TV headquarters.

"NATO's decision to target civilian broadcast facilities not only increases the danger for reporters now working in Yugoslavia," wrote CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper in a letter 10 NATO Secretary General Javier

(Continued on page 2)

Yarmouk River at lowest recent level official

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN - The government on Friday said the Yarmouk River has reached its lowest level in recent history, a development that may worsen the state of drought in Jordan this sum-

Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General Dureid Mahasneh told the Jordan. Times that measurements made on Tuesday to examine the river's water level revealed the severe reduction. He gave no figures.

The river, which provides Jordan with 135 million cubic metres (mcm) of water per year begins in Syria, flows along the Syrian-Jordanian border and then joins the Jordan River downstream from Lake Tiberias.

The drought, which has reportedly cost the Kingdom JD150 million so far, was officially declared in January as rainfall, which accounts for about 60 per cent of the country's water supply, dipped to just two per cent of the seasonal average. The deficit in domestic use by the end of 1999 is projected to reach approximately 10 per cent, with demand totalling amounting to 254mcm,

ment. The government earlier this month devised an emergency plan to deal with the crisis, presenting three shortage scenarios of increasing severity, all of which focus on whether the Zai plant will be able to perform at full capacity and on the Amman and Balqa governorates, where the water shortage is

expected to be most severe.

according to the govern-

Mahasneh, who heads the Jordanian side in a joint water committee with Israel. declined on Friday to comment on recent officials' statements that the Jewish state has agreed to provide the Kingdom with the full 55mcm of water as stipulated in the 1994 peace treaty. The two sides last week reached a breakthrough in their water dispute, which began last month when Israel proposed cutting supplies to the Kingdom by 40 per cent because of a regional drought.

(Continued on page 2)

NATO leaders meet at 50th anniversary summit, vow to defeat Milosevic



Heads of state are introduced during the official opening of NATO's 50th anniversary summit on Friday (AP photo)

WASHINGTON (R) - NATO leaders declared their unity and determination to prevail over Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on Friday, rejecting his latest peace bid and vowing to step up bombing and economic pres-

The 19 leaders opened their 50th anniversary summit with a special session on Kosovo, one month into their air war against Yugoslavia, declaring: "NATO is determined to

In a statement they vowed to step up relentless military and economic pressure on Milosevic until he accepted a total withdrawal from the Serbian province and allowed all ethnic Albanian refugees to return to their homes under the protection of an international security force with NATO as its core.

The leaders made no mention of sending in ground troops, even though 30 days of air strikes have

not broken Milosevic's resolve or stemmed a destabilising flood of refugees from Kosovo into fragile neighbouring states.

While British Defence Secretary George Robertson said ground forces would be "fundamental to the endgame in Kosovo," German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said the option of waging a land cam-paign was "off the table." After NATO bombs struck Ser-

bian television headquarters overnight, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe General Wesley Clark gave the summit an upbeat briefing on the air campaign, saying: "We are winning. He is losing, and he knows it."

He said Milosevic was prepared to accept a high level of damage but Serbian forces were vulnerable to

Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini struck a discordant note. according to his spokesman, condemning the strike on the TV station and saying it was 'not in the

U.S. President Bill Clinton underlined the moral crusade which NATO believes it is waging in the Balkans, declaring: "We are in Kosovo because we want to replace ethnic cleansing with tolerance and decency; violence with security; disintegration with restoration: isolation with integration into the rest of the region and the continent."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair proclaimed: "Reversing the hideous policy of ethnic cleansing is the best anniversary memorial NATO could have." And French President Jacques Chirac said it would be a long but just war.

As the leaders met in securitycordoned central Washington, conflicting reports emerged of what exactly Milosevic had accepted in talks with former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin on

Thursday.

Moscow said he had agreed to a U.N.-led military force with foreign troops from countries not engaged in the air strikes.

But the Yugoslav foreign ministry said Belgrade would countenance only unarmed U.N. observers. The NATO leaders pledged to

work constructively with Russia lo seek an acceptable solution but said Milosevic's "offers to date do not meet this test." U.S. National Security Adviser

Sandy Berger said there were no plans for Chernomyrdin to come to the summit to brief NATO. Russia has boycotted the event in

protest at the bombing.

The allies endorsed a European Union oil embargo on Yugoslavia and ordered their defence ministers to find ways of stopping the delivery of war material by naval action.

(Continued on page 2)

Church leader preaches joy of

paying taxes

Angry students protest in Beirut against Israeli invasion of Arnoun

than a thousand students protested here on Friday against Israel's occupation of the southern Lebanese village of Amoun, burning U.S. and Israeli flags and calling on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.

About 1.200 university and school students gathered in downtown Beirut, bearing Lebanese flags and hanners denouncing Amoun's occu-

"A civilian resistance against the barbaric occupation," read ooe sign. "We shall return to you. Armoun." said one banner while anoth-

Yarmouk

River at

lowest

recent

level —

official

(Continued from page 1)

Of the 55mcm, all of

which come from Lake

Tiberias, 30mcm were

stipulated in the peace

treaty while the rest is

provided for in a 1997

Commenting on water talks with Syria during

His Majesty King

Mahasneh said the gov-

ernment is expected to

announce new develop-

ments this week. He

gave no further details.

Local newspapers

quoted Minister of

Water and Irrigation

Kamel Mahadin as say-

ing that the two sides

will review the long-

delayed Wihdeh Dam

on the Yarmouk and

that a Jordanian techni-

cal team will leave for

Damascus next week to

A joint committee

agreed last year to

move ahead with the

construction of the

JD152 million dam and

seek funding for the-

project. The dam is

expected to have a stor-

225mcm of water. Con-

struction is expected to

three-and-a-half

capacity

discuss related issues.

agreement,

Abdullah s

er called on the "young people of Lebanon to unite for the liberation of the south." A group of students burned Israeli and U.S. flags while

others cheered.

Israeli troops moved into Amoun in February. but large crowds of Lehanese, mostly students from Beirut. ripped down the barriers during protest demonstra-

But on April 15, Israeli soldiers and members of their allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia again occupied the village, located on the northern edge of the Israeli-occupied border zone of southern Lebanon.

Israeli troops opened fire on a group of journalists at Amoun's entrance the next day, wounding one television cameraman.

On Monday, the committee monitoring the 1996 truce in southern Lebanon - made up of delegates from Israel, France, Lebanon, Syria and the United States - called for "concrete steps" to restore the status quo in Amoun.

A Lebanese government official said the panel entrusted the U.S. and France to establish bilateral contacts with each of

Lebanon and Israel to help return to the situation in Amoun prior to April 15.

On Thursday, some 40 Lebanese students headed off from Beirut for Arnoun on to "liberate" Arnoun again, but they were barred from reaching the village by Lebanese army soldiers who feared for their safety.

Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, has warned against using civilians to fight Israel's occupation of Arnoun, saying Beirut would be responsible for any

Iraq urges U.N. to act to stop Turkish incursions

Iraq called on the United Nations on Friday to seek an immediate withdrawal of Turkish troops from the north of the country and to halt the incursions. The U.N. is urged to

assume its reponsibility... and intervene to halt the threats and aggressions against Iraq." Foreigo Minister Mobammad Said Sahhaf said in a message to U.N. Secretary Geoeral Kofi Annan. the official INA news agency reported.

He said Annan should tell the Turkish government to "confirm to the principles of the U.N. Charter and withdraw its troops immediately from northern lraq."

Sahhaf made a similar request to the Arah League on Tuesday, say-ing that the Turkish incursion had caused "large human and material losses" in the Kurdish north, which remained outside Baghdad's control sioce the 1991 Gulf War.

The Turkish launched a fresh campaign against the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in

the north of Iraq earlier this month.

It regularly crosses the border to bunt down PKK units in northern lraq. used for rear bases hy the rebels since Baghdad's authority over the region collapsed.

Some 20,000 troops are on the move in the operation, according to Turkish press reports.

The PKK has been waging an armed rehellion In southeastern since 1984. More than 31,000 people have heen



ISRAEL STEPS UP SECURITY: An Israeli border guard looks on as Muslim worshippers leave Al Agsa Mosque compound after Friday prayers in Israeli-occupied Arab east Jerusalem. Israeli forces deployed reinforcements after Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu decided to shut down parts of the Orient House, the Palestinian headquarters in east Jerusalem. Despite the tension, Friday prayers went on peacefully (AFP photo)

suffers from heart problems'

ANKARA AP - Kuntoh rebel leaker Abduliah Ocalan compliance of a weak heart and moreused pulptularies one of his lawyers will the Analoga acus gener Thursday

title and he feels autreating pulpitations and that his boart is weater." From Kapar and after visiting Octdan on his prosent (stand

Oction, 50, is the tole numete of lumbi island, where he is awaiting mail on charges of treason, He taxes the death penalty, if comparied

Kircleds across have repeatedly expressed concern about his health condition. Until Thursday, Lowson and the rebel appeared healthy

(Kalan hinself complaned of health problems when he landed in Rome last Novemher at the beginning of his fivemonth search for a new have that ended with his capture by Turkish forces in Kenya on Feb. 15.

Turkish authorities say Oction is submitted to daily medical check-ups by two diction.

A state security court in Ankara will hold a hearing April 30 and is expected to merge almost half a deven cases pending against Ocalan. A trial date will be set after the

Ocalan's refels have been fighting for automany in southeastern Turkey since 1984, in a conflict that has killed some 37,000 people.

NATO hits Serb TV, 10 killed

(Continued from page 1)

It also "permanently jeopardises all journalists as non-combatants in internationl conflicts as provided for in the Geneva Conventions," she wrote.

Cooper noted the bombing directly contradicted NATO assurances offered just days earlier in a letter to the International Federation of Journalists.

Amnesty International said Friday it was seeking an "urgent explanation" from NATO over its attack on the Serbian television headquarters.

"Based on the information available, we do not see bow this attack could be justified. We are seeking an urgent explanation from NATO as to their reasons for carrying out this attack, said a spokesman for the human rights organisa-

tion.
"For a site to be considered a legitimate military target, there must be a direct link with the conduct of military operations, and even then the safeguards for protecting civilians must be respected," he added.

In Athens, Yugoslavia's ambassador to Greece. Dragomar Vucicevic. told a news conference a total of 25 people were killed when NATO struck the RTS television build-

Witnesses said that what they thought was a laser-guided bomb hit the main control room of the television centre while at least 70 people were at work in the building.

Also Friday, alliance reacted coolly to remarks in Moscow by Russia's Balkan envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin, who said that during talks in Belgrade this agreed to the deployment of foreign troops in

Belgrade, apparently contradicting his comments. later said it had discussed only a possible unarmed U.N. presence in the province. President

Boris Yeltsin has said Moscow does not intend to be drawn into the conflict, but analysts said a NATO ban on the delivery of oil products to Yugoslavia could bring relations between Russia and the Western alliance to the brink.

"Russia has to decide if it wants Milosevic to carry on fighting. That's the \$64,000 question," an oil analyst in London said. "NATO would be extremely foolish to enforce a ban as it would lead to direct confrontation with Russian civilian vessels."

Russia was the only country to vote against a U.N. resolution on Friday condemning "horrendous and ongoing war crimes" against ethnic Albanians by Serb forces

in Kosovo.

The 53-state U.N. human rights body, holding its annual session in Geneva, overwhelmingly adopted the resolution by a vote of 46 countries in favour. Six countries abstained.

The U.N. estimated 600,000 ethnic Albanians have fled Kosovo over the last year, causing a major refugee crisis in neighbouring countries.

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said NATO strikes which knocked out power supplies to some parts of Belgrade on Friday represented a change in strategy aimed at bringing the war home to the broad population of Yugoslavia.

"I think the broad message is that they [Serbs] should put pressure on their leadership to end this," he said.

The attacks also hit

transmitters elsewhere in Belgrade in one of NATO's fiercest strikes so far on the city. NATO has hit Yugoslav targets from the air for

the past month to try to force Milosevic to withdraw his forces from. Tanjug said NATO planes had attacked tar-

gets around Serbia's second city. Novi Sad. Explosions were heard from nearby mount Fruska Gora, site of a television transmitter, at around 2:00 a.m. Tanjug also reported a big blast near the southeastern city of Nis at ahout 2:20 a.m. and said a railway bridge had been hit at Ostruznica. 25-kilometre southwest of Belgrade.

NATO leaders meet at 50th anniversary summit, yow to defeat Milosevic

(Continued from page 1)

Berger said NATO did not rule out using force to stop oil shipments, although diplomats said France prevented any mention of that in the joint statement on legal grounds.

The Balkan conflict transformed what was to have been a jubilant celebration of NATO's 50th anniversary into a council of war on how best to dislodge Serb forces from Kosovo.

But there was still some martial pomp. Military fanfares greeted the leaders in a flag-bedecked Mellon Auditorium where they signed a Washington Declaration and delivered 19 ringing speeches in the room where NATO was founded in 1949 in the depths of the Cold War.

Limo-lock had already begun outside the meeting site, where motorcades were three-deep hy mid-morning. Otherwise. Washington's heart was largely deserted. with 90,000 federal workers

given the day off to cut down on congestion.

"As we meet in Washington today. Europe is confronting a very serious erisis," NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said in opening remarks, "Images of hundreds of thousands of

lages recall images we had hoped never to see again." NATO said it was prepared to suspend its air strikes once Beignide unequivocally accepted the West's peace conditions and

deported people, burned

homes and destroyed vil-

began withdrawing its forces from Kosour. NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said Milosevic's plan seemed to "fall well short" of NATO's demands but would be encouraging if it showed Milosevic was

struggling to find a way "The next time he gets in touch it has to be a much

more substantial offer," he

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 4773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

| | 18:00 Cartoon - The World of |
|---|--|
| | Peter Rabbit and Friends |
| i | 18:30Mirror, Mirror |
| | 19:00Le Journal |
| | 19:15French Programme |
| i | 19:30News headlines |
| | 19:33French Programmes |
| | 20:00Today's Health |
| | 20:30The Pretender |
| 1 | 21:15Ancient Civilizations |
| 1 | 22:00News in English |
| | 22:20 Feature film - Keeping the Promise |

| 03:30 | (Sunrise) Dub |
|--------|---------------|
| 04:53 | (Sunrise) Dub |
| 111-34 | Dhul |
| t5:12 | ^As |
| 18:15 | Maghre |
| 19:38 | ^As ^YIsh |
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PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 5920740 Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785 St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590 Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366 Anglican Church

4624853/4624811. St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751. Amman International Church Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404 The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932 St. John the Baptist at De la

Salle College Tel. 5661757 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440 Greek Orthodox Church Tel. Church of Presentation, Sweifieh Tel. 5920146

The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757 English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679 The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Cathobic Church Tel. 4771331 The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be warm with temperatures rising gradually becoming 2-3 degrees centigrade above average. Clouds will appear at different altitudes and winds easterly to southeasterly moderate to active. In Agaba, it will be occasionally dusty, warm, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp 10/27 Amman . .18/31 Aqaba Deserts . ..08/29 Jordan Valley .. _18/31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25 Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

Following are the tempreatures expected today in the following

| Ajloun | 08/24 |
|----------|-------|
| Jerash | |
| Um Qays | 12/28 |
| Madaba | |
| Petra | 10/27 |
| Dead Sea | |
| | |

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| AMMAN: | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Dr. Bahjat Bader | 5332642 |
| Dr. Nasser Ibrahim | |
| Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi | 4893542 |
| Dr. Khalil Al Tirshug | |
| 25 Man: 12 Man: 4 | |

NIGHT DUTY

| AMMAN: | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Firas Pharmacy | 5661912 |
| Al Salam Pharmac | y 4636730 |
| Mayadah Pharmacy | 5537004 |

Ruku Al Dawa Pharmacy 5536169

TRRID: Dr. Ghazi Ta'amneh. (02)250080 Fou'ad Pharmacy .(02)275360

ZARQA: Dr. Walid Nabban (05)3851743 Palestine Pharmacy..(05)983562

EMERGENCIES

| Food Control Centre4637111 |
|---|
| Civil Defence Department _5661111 |
| Civil Defence Immediate Res- |
| cue4630341 |
| Civil Defence Emergency199 |
| Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777 |
| Fire Brigade4617101 |
| Blood Bank4775121 |
| Highway Police5343402 |
| Traffic Police4896390 |
| Public Security Dept4630321 |
| Hotel Complaints5605800 |
| Price Complaints5661176 |
| Water & Sewerage Complaints4897467 |
| Amman Municipality Com- |
| plaints787111 |
| Telephone Information (directo- |
| |
| ry assistance)121 Overseas Calls0132 |
| |
| Central Amman Telephone |
| Repairs4623101 |

Abdali Tel. Repairs......5661101

Jordan Television4773111

J. Electricity Authority .5815615

Electric Power Co....4636381

_5680100

Radio Jordan ...

Water Authority

Queen Alia Intl. Airport ...44-53200 HOSPITALS

RJ Flight Information..44-53200

AMMAN: The Arab Centre for Heart and Spe-

Hussein Medical Centre...58568564630195 Khalidi Matemity..... ...4644281/6 Akileh Maternity..... _4642441/2 Jabai Amman Maternity....4612362 Malhas, J. Amman.4636140 Palestine, Shmeisani5607071 Shmeisani Hospital5607431 Jordan Hospital5607550 University Hospital5353444 Al-Muasher Hospital 566722719 Al-Ahli, Abdali5664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3 _.4775111*1/*26 Army, Marka4891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital......5157100 Amal Hospital _____ ..5607155 Al Amal Cancer Centre ..5353000 Jerusalem Hospital4387181

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Zarqa

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Hospital ..(09)983323 National Hospital Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986731 Al Hikma Modern Hospital

Princess Basma Hospital ...(02)275555 Catholic Hospital ...(02)272275

Nafees Hospital ...(02) 7101372, (02) 7103101 Hospital Rosary Sisters 7102831, (02) 7102011 Speciality Hospital(02) 7103100

AOABA: Princess Haya tal...(03)2014111

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (44) 52700 or (44) 523250. Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875201-5

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 08:30Damascus (RJ)

09:30 ...New Delhi (RJ) Doha, Bahram (RJ) ...Karachi, Dubai (RI) 10:35 15:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) Lyon (add) (RJ) ...Paris (add) (RF) ...Rome (RI) 20:55 ...Frankfurt (RJ)Paris (add) (RI)

Other Flights ..Sanaa (TY) ...Riyadh (SV) 13:10 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF) ...Milan (AZ) 14:00 .. Vienna (OS) ..lstanbul (TK) 15:35Beirut (ME) 18:00Dubai, Muscat (EK) 18:00Frankfurt (LH) 18:10Paris (AF)

21:35

06:15Bangkok, Doha (RI)

Royal Wings (RW) 08:30 Agaha (arriving at QAIA) (RW)

00:20 Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)

00:5S London, Damascus (BA)

......Caro (MS)

.....Beigrade (Д')

08:50 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) 18:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka

DEPARTURES

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| Koval | Jordanian (RJ) Flights |
| 05:35 | Berru (RI) |
| 06:35 | |
| 07-00 | · ···································· |
| 10-15 | 1272 1275 302 (RI) |
| 11.00 | |
| 11.20 | Frakter (RI) |
| | Rome (RJ) |
| 11.50 | Amsterdam, New York (RI) |
| | THE STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE P |
| | Brasseis, Paris (RJ) |
| | |
| | Riyadh, Dhahaan (RU) |
| 20:20 | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 20:40 | Bombay (RJ) |
| 21:00 | Ahu Dhain, Duhai (RI) |
| 14:45 | Lamaca RI |
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| Other | Dieke |
| 7.15 | PlightsAden, Sansa (IY) |
| 14.00 | Aden, Sansa (IY) |
| 14:00 | Rivadh (SV) |
| 13:00 | Ahu Dhahi, Bahrain (GF) |
| 4:00 | |
| 4:50 | Vienna (OS) |
| 6:00 | Litarioul (TK) |
| 8:35 | Diam's Control |
| | 05:35 06:35 07:00 10:45 11:00 11:30 11:30 11:45 12:20 13:05 20:40 21:00 14:45 01:45 |

19:00 Duhai (EK) 03:00 Dantascus, Beigrade (JU) 05:55 Damascus, London (BA) 06:10 Frankfurt (LH) 06:25 Paris (AP)

Royal Wlogs (RW) 96:00 Aqaba (from QAIA)

08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Air-POR RW 19:45 Aqaba Ifrom Vierka Airport#RW.

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Health sector workshop highlights from head duplication of services, poor coordination problem By Suha Ma'ayeh ANKARA IAPI ANKARA IAPI Libel bracks Abdullator AMMAN — Health officials and experts believe a lack of ry's private and public security's private and public security and the often unnecessary Thurse of the feet the will be leed the

The same is the first the same in the first that the same is the first that the same is the same in the same is the same in the same in the same is the same in the same in the same is the same in the same in the same is the same in th decline in medical services which ended on Thursday, also and drugs." of length tolend agreed that the duplication of Sew Pul Suns of services provided by various increasing demand on treat- all public health institutions. Police of the set of ment are placing huge strains

on the country's health sector. ing number of people demand- areas of waste." ing health services," Health Minister Ishaq Maraqa said dards of services offered, espeduring a recent seminar depict- cially at the governorates' hoslenges and expectations of the an increasing demand on major health sector.

"Jordan's population expected to double by the year state-run hospitals is low, while 2020. Therefore, we should be main hospitals are congested. prepared to meet health requirements by that time," Maraqa able referral of health clinics told the participants attending and minor hospitals to main

He added that upgrading the

requires a high budget. Jordan spends nearly eight per cent of its gross domestic

product on health care - a percentage higher than that spent by some Western industrialised countries. Maraqa told the Jordan Times hospitals has resulted in a sharp

limit waste in the service-oriented sector 'by trimming the of medical services. Officials and experts, speak- workforce, or limiting waste ing at a two-day workshop resulting from consumables He stressed the need to draw

up a medical care strategy health institutions and the which includes computerising

"By computerising information, the ministry can obtain The ministry's resources are accurate figures which will help limited in view of the increas- it regulate its work and pinpoint

The discrepancy in the staning the achievements, chal- pitals in urban areas, resulted in

'The occupancy rate in minor This is a result of the unjustifihospitals," Maraga added.

ministry's health services that a step should be taken to facilities is essential.

regulate the health sector to offer more services at reduced prices," he stressed.

The minister added that the government is seeking further cooperation with state-run health subsidies, the University of Jordan Hospital and the that the ministry is seeking to Royal Medical Services in an attempt to avoid the duplication

> "Our waste in health resources is also due to the lack of coordination between the private and the public sector," he added.

The ministry is seeking to involve the private sector to shoulder the responsibility of treating patients.

The move will benefit patients covered by the ministry's insurance scheme and the private sector as well," the minister added.

Several worksheets presented at the seminar, hosted at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Forum, stressed the necessity of utilising the available resources to ensure the equal distribution of health services.

Sa'ad Hijazi, president of the Jordan University of Science and Technology, said improving the standards of health ser-The government believes vices at primary health care

leens express concerns at UNICEF Youth Forum

By Dima Hamdan

AMMAN — Teenagers have a drugs among adolescents. They lot on their minds, and a recent suggested that the minimum Youth Forum gave them the age for marriage should be opportunity to publicly articu-raised from 16 years to 18-20 late their concerns.

Approximately 200 students, including three from the West pressing need for intensive Bank, took charge of setting the forum's agenda, during which all these issues, and suggested teenagers highlighted several the establishment of youth cenof their most pressing contres, especially in rural areas

norates in the Kingdom dis- extracurricular activities. cussed issues pertaining to adolescence, especially problems nificant concern about the facing adolescent girls, and Tawjihi examination and the

old girl from Ramallah, has pressure before the exam, attended several youth work- mainly because the examinashops in the West Bank. But don, which tests students on said that this forum was differ- four years of high school edu-

were running the discussions believe that admission to and the supervisors did not universities does not rely on interfere," she said. "It was a fair criteria, and proposed that different experience because admission would be deterwe were not told what to do. mined by scores of both the We had long discussions where Tawjihi examination and the we were able to identify the university examination. problems, analyse them and come up with solutions."

Basma attended the final

hoped to see implemented. Students mainly focused on

and females and the increasing consumption of tobacco and

The also said that there was a media awareness campaigns on and poor neighbourhoods, Students from several gover- where both sexes can pursue

Students also expressed sig-

ways to improve their living decreasing opportunities for conditions and increase their university education. They complained that Tawjihi stu-Maisa'a Natsheh, a 17 year dents fall under tremendous cation, is extremely difficult. "What I liked most is that we Furthermore, they said they

Students also called for introducing the Internet to schools Her Royal Highness Princess and universities, as well as establishing colleges that offer assembly, where students made labour training courses to a presentation of their main accommodate those who canfindings and the solutions they not pursue university educa-

discrimination between males thinking," said Ihab Nasrawi, a exchange experiences."

Both Maisa'a and Ihab feel that youth in the West Bank and Gaza Strip share the same worries as their Jordanian peers.

They said that despite differences in secondary issues, students were both receptive of and influenced by each other's

But Maisa'a, who moved to Ramallah two years ago, believes that drug abuse is a more persistent issue in Palestine due to the hardship caused by the occupation and the

'I discovered that the mentality of Palestinian boys is not what I expected. There are some open-minded people," she said. "They were not severely affected by the occupation. They would be fighting and educating themselves at the

same time." It was an emotional and tearful good-bye for the teenage students who concluded the UNICEF Youth Forum, on Thursday, ending a three-day camp of free discussion and open dialogue.

Yousef Barodi, a UNICEF coordinator in Jerusalem, said that "this was a good step in establishing good connections with UNICEF Amman."

"I think it is very important for the Palestinian youth to leave [the Occupied Territories] for a while to release the pressure," he added, " [It's good for This experience has given them] to see another environhousehold issues, including me the chance to learn about ment, to learn how other youth compulsory marriage for girls, the negative aspects of my are facing their problems and to

Islamists claim president's seat in JEA internal elections

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

AMMAN — The Islamist trend of the Jordan Engineers Association on Thursday snatched the presidency of the JEA's Private Offices Bureau, but fell short of dominating the bureau's board.

The nationalist trend garnered six out of ten seats, including that of the vice president, while the remaining four were taken by the Islamists.

This is the first time in nearly ten years that the nationalist trend has obtained the majority of seats in the association internal elections, said a JEA offi-

Issum Belbeisi, from the Islamist-led White List, with 655 votes, while Mu'aia Mehiar, his Green List competitor won 402 votes.

"We consider the Islamists the winners of the elections because isss in the future. The nationalthe battle is for the helm, rather than the executive council," said an Islamist who is a member of the new executive council.

Raiq Allawneh, from the Green List, was able to grant the nationalists the vice president's post when he beat his opponent from the White list with 647 votes over Majid Tabba's 408

Other members of the 10-seat executive council are Saleh Rahal (684 votes), Kamal Habash (507), Qayed Al Zein (496), Khalid Samarah (469) and Jalal Saleh 456 votes, all from the Green List.

The Islamists are represented Marawan Malehi (666), Mansour Shamout (604) and Hamid who preferred anonymity.

Al Ayid (618). Many observers foresee that the results of the engineers elections is the turning point to the non-governmental institutions elections.

The Islamists, for the past ten years, dominated almost all professional association elections, beating a nationalist movement busy fighting amongst themselves over who should represent them.

"The nationalists, for the first time in many years were able to combine their efforts and agree among themselves on one candidate," said one nationalist supporter who preferred not to be named. 'The nationalists' unity is the prime reason for their razor sharp victory, even though secured the president's post they did not win with absolute majority," he told the Jordan Times on Friday.

The engineers elections could be a big lesson for the nationalists earlier this year were dealt repeated defeats in the Union of Professional Association Elections because of lack of cooperation, observers believe.

"The nationalists enjoy popularity among intellectuals and professionals, but the problem is that each one wants to be the boss, said Ramzi Asar, a nationalist supporter,

Many also believe that the Islamists' influence is waning. "It is true that the Islamists won almost all elections in the Kingdom for the past years, but their era was shady and questionable. Their slogans were bubbles in in the executive council by the air, punctured by reality," said one independent observer

WHAT'S GOING ON

. ... German film "Der Autenthalt" (with subtitles in English) at Goethe-Institut, Jabai Amman at 7:30 p.m. Children's film "Eine Familie Names
 Beethoven" (in German) at Goethe Institut, Jabal

Amman at 5:00 p.m.

"The Full Monty" at Books@Cafe, Jabal
Amman on Sunday April 25 at 8:30 p.m. (Tel.

Lebanese Film Festival

· Seminar on the Lebanese cinema at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:30 p.m. (To be followed by four films "Baal and Death," "Our Reckless Wars," "The Strip is Fine," and "11 Pasteur Street").

Four films "Jisr Al Qamar," "Rnins," "Between Me and You," and "Living Icons" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Sunday April 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Exhibitions

 Seventh Annual Book Exhibition at the Bishop's School, Jabal Amman, until April 29. Works by Jordanian ceramist Mahmoud Taha at

Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 4643251/2), until May 6. Also showing an exhibition of photographs hy Jordanian artist Adnan Sharif entitled "Spring at Darat Al Funun," until May 6.

Works by Jordanian artist Shereen Audi Kurdi at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until April

 Display of Iraq Al Amir collection at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation until April 29 (Tel. 5699141/2). (The exhibition includes handicraft, pottery, hand-woven fabrics, cushions, handmade paper, and food).



Journalists return Sherif to third term as JPA head

By Amy Henderson

AMMAN — Members of the Jordan Press Association on Friday returned controversial incumbent president Seif Sherif to his post in a predicted hands down elections contest.

Sherif, who enters his third term as JPA president, garnered 220 votes in one round of voting from the 452-member general assembly, a fair stretch away from his only two rivals for the post.

The president, a shareholder in Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper, outclassed Musa Hawamdeh, formerly of Al Arab Al Yawm, and Khaled Mahedine, former director of the Jordan News Agency. Petra

Twenty-seven journalists cast blank ballots, the highest number of white papers returned in the association's history.

The election is the first held under the new JPA law, endorsed by both houses of Parliament last summer. Under the new law, the president, who used to serve a two-year term. will serve for three years.

The law also abolished the quota system for the ninemember JPA council - three seats each for Petra, newspaper owners and private sector newspapers. The abolition of the quota was a move that many journalists said they hoped would limit the government's influence in the association and curb the potential for newspaper-owners to obstruct

the interest of their employees. But yesterday, journalists returned a council dominated by the official media, giving three sears to Petra, represented on the council by Ahmad Dabbas, Mohammad Melgawi and Omar Shneikat (incumbent), and three to the 61 per cent government-owned Al Rai.

represented by former JPA deputy president Tareq Momani (incumbent), Issam Qadamani and Nader Khatatbeh (incumbent). Al Dustour, which under the

quota system enjoyed a domination of the board along with Al Ra'i, placed only one of its journalists. Hilmi Al Asmar, in a council seat. Al Asmar served on the 1996-1998 board. The remaining seats went to JPA general manager and owner of Al Fares monthly Fakri Abu Hamdeh (incumbent). Al Hadath weekly chief editor Nidal Mansour (incumbent). who was active in the crusade ly women's macazine. Shamiat (Women of the Orient).

owns and edits her own month-

Representatives of three independent papers lost their seats: Zuhdi Al Badri of Al Hadaf (The Target), Nabil Ghishan of Al Arab Al Yawm, and Jamal Shawahin of Al Bilad.

Sixteen journalists run for the

council. In the run-up to the elections journalists said they were unenthusiastic about the elections, which they said, promised no real change without a change in the association's head. Ahead of Friday's balloting, the general assembly voted that the new council should reserve some of its budget to compensate journalists who say they were "arbitrarily dismissed" from the provocative Al Arab Al Yawin daily newspaper. The journalists have staged an open-ended sitin in front of the Al Arab Al Yawın premises on University Road, and the JPA has said it would exercises all legal avenues to see the journalists return to work. Al Arab Al Yawm management has said

Criminal court sentences man to death in murder of pharmacist, domestic helper

agains the introduction of the

1998 Press and Publications

Law, and Dina Zorba, who

By Rana Husseini

AMMAN — The Criminal Court on Thursday sentenced a man to death after convicting him of robbing and murdering a pharmacist and a domestic helper in February last year.

The court found Samir Musa guilty of murdering Farouq Malhas, the 37-yearold owner of Wadi Al Nasser Pharmacy, on Feb. 3, 1998. The defendant was also convicted of killing a 50-year-old Sn Lankan domestic helper, identified as Imam, two days

He was also convicted by he same tribunal of the attempted murder of Abed Ali, 50-yearold owner of Diala Pharmacy. on Feb. 3, and was sentenced to a 20-year prison sentence with hard labour.

The murder of Malhas and the attack on another pharmasame day raised fears among the pahrmaceutical profession that they had again become targets for armed robbenes. In 1996, unidentified assailants killed three pharmacists in separate attacks in Amman, At that time, police said that the killers were drug addicts who were seeking narcotics.

According to court documents, the suspect, who is unemployed decided to mb the pharmacies, for financial He entered Malhas' pharma-

cy located on Wadi Rimain Street, at 7:00 p.m.. When he victim attempted to escape, he shot him once in the head. took his wallet, a gold ring, JD165 and a valium bottle before fleeing the scene. Hours later in a second

attempted robbery, he entered Diala Pharmacy in Jabal Taj

cist a few hours later in the and shot the pharmicist once in the shoulder. However, Musa fled the scene immediately because he ran out of ammunition and passers by interfered to help the pharmacist, the court said. Few days later, he shot and

killed the domestic helper in Jabal Weibdeh. The defendant claimed in court that he was planning to kill his sister because of her "immoral behaviour," and that he mistakenly thought that the domestic helper was his sister. However, the court rejected his claim, saying he had made

> ing the course of his testimony. The verdict, handed down by Judges Jihad Khasawneh. Abdullah Oweis and Omar Khleifat, will be automatically reviewed by the Court of Cassation within 30 days.

contradictory statements dur-

An overtaxed facility, an overworked staff and underprivileged patients:

Al Bashir Hospital cries for help

As the Health Ministry searches for funding for a new public hospital, pressure on Al Bashir, the only fully public hospital in the capital grows, writes Suha Ma'ayeh

AMMAN — Um Ahmad sat desperately on the stairs of the ageing out-patient clinic at the state-run Al-Bashir Hospital, that caters for up to nearly 5,000 patients a day.

She was waiting for hospital officials to call out her daughter's name, a routine procedure

signalling that her turn to see a doctor is close.

Such scenes of anguished patients waiting patiently, sometimes endlessly at the 874-bed hospital, the capital's main public health care facility, were highlighted again when His Majesty King Abdullah paid a surprise to the hospital on Sunday.

Television showed him talking to parients and touring the overcrowded wards and waiting rooms in the hospital, the sole fully-fledged public hospital in Amman, home to over 1.25 million people. It offers services to civil employees and their families and to the needy in return for nominal fees.

Patients gave mixed assessments of their experience at Al

"It takes us hours to see the doctor, but when you finally get to see him, he only has one minute for you," lamented Um Ahmad, 38, as she waited along with over 500 other

"But those who have a wasta (connection) at the hospital do not wait like we do." Badria Subuh, 63, suffering from cardiovascular problems, told the King she was satisfied with the services offered at the department.

the services and I told him they were good," she said. Ibtisam, whose six-year-old daughter suffers from a unnary

The King asked me about

infection, said she was pleased with the level of services. "Services are good, but we have to wait for a very long time to see the doctor," she added, while adding a stitch to a piece of cloth she was

embroidering. The hospital's director declined immediate comment on the level of services and future plans.

However, the government, it hands tied by a chronic budget deficit, has often said little can be done except improve operational aspects and services and cut down on the bloated bureaucracy.

Health Minister Ishaq Maraga said studies and plans to set up a 500-bed Prince

Hamzah hospital in Tareq, Tabarbour, to support Al-Bashir, have been completed. "But the project hinges on the ministry's ability to secure

funding," he told the Jordan

Times on Tuesday. "It will not act as a substitute to Al Bashir. It will offer support with its 500 beds," he added.

The government has also allocated \$12 million of a \$50 million World Bank loan given in 1998 to renovate Al Bashir's buildings, some whose construction and infrastructure dates to the 1950's.

Um Ahmad and other patients complained of negligence resulting from mounting pressure on the hospital's ser-

admitted her 13-year-old son Murad to the hospital a few days ago. "Murad was referred to the internal medicine ward after he

the emergency department," she recalled. "He slept there for two

was examined by doctors at

nights and nobody looked after him, let alone the doctor who crossed out his own name and said he was not responsible [for his case]."

Other patients complained about cockroaches filling the hospital and said its main lifts, even some of those used to ferry patients to the surgery theatre, had been out of order for months.

stretchers from floor to floor while those who have the energy are forced to walk." said one nurse who requested anonymity. Maraqa said maintenance

"Patients are often carried on

works on the lift began on Monday, a day after the Royal Some hospital officials said Nabila Abu Arkoub said she the emergency unit, which

> day, is in dire need of doctors. Only two doctors man the night shift, they said. "In some cases, nurses have to stitch the wounds of

> handles hundreds of patients a

patients," said one witness. While this reporter was speaking to a patient, a janitor

after looking at an X-ray photo. Seconds later, he found his way through the crowd and continued cleaning the hospital, located in the impoverished Ashrafieh area, a crowded low-income area in eastern Amman. The understaffed hospital has for years been at the heart of public and official

reassured one patient that his

knee was in good condition

medical services throughout most of its 80 departments. Mohammad Khaled, 34, in excruciating pain, was admitted to the internal medicine ward for haemodylasis.

criticism for poor hygienic

standards and for a shortage in

"He spent two days lying unconscious in the emergency department until a bed was finally made available," said his relative, a retired nurse. Some other doctors working

departments due to a bed shortage. "Some patients suffering from internal problems are transferred to the ear, nose and

there said patients were often

transferred to other non-related

throat department," said a resident doctor. The Coronary Care Unit

three nurses, has 10 beds. "There are many patients who need to be transferred to this unit but they go back home because all beds are occupied," said one nurse. They cannot afford treatment in private sector facilities."

(CCU), which is supervised by

"Patients, who are not covered by a health insurance scheme, pay only JD5 a night at the CCU unit. Services include medicine and a shot to thin the blood," said a nurse, working at the CCU since 1996. They have no other place to go, since prices in the private sector are beyond their

reach," she added. In a country where the annual income per capita of a Jordanian is just below \$1.500. health officials estimate that only one million of the Kingdom's 4.6 million people can afford treatment at private hos-

Nearly 1.2 million civil servants and their families benefit from a health insurance scheme introduced in 1965 by the Ministry of Health and are treated at its 22 hospitals and its nearly 1,000 outpatient departments across the Kingdom. Those not covered by the scheme pay nominal fees covening 15 per cent of the actual

Jordan spends about eight per cent of its gross domestic product income on health care. Local columnists hailed the King's pre-planned visit to the hospital and expressed hope that officials would take action to ease the plight of patients.

cost of treatment.

"We know about the (limited) capabilities and so do His Majesty and the government," wrote Sultan Hattab in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i. "But through this trip, the King wanted to send the message that one can do a lot with something small, that one can exert more effort to close the gap and that one has to be concerned more with the needs of citizens instead of lonking for personal privi-

Congress fails to win support to form government

party failed on Friday to win support from a majority likelihood of early elec-

Mrs. Gandhi's hopes to lead India's next government were set back when Mulayam Singh Yadav, head of the Socialist Samajwadi party said he would not support either of the major blocs trying to cobble together a new government. The party controls 20 of the 543 seats in parlia-

There remained an outside chance that non-Congress parties would try to form a coalition, or that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), whose coalinon lost a confidence vote a week ago, would seek the president's approval to try again.

Congress did not immediately concede defeat. workers milled around dejectedly at Mrs. Gandhi's home when the radio reported the decision. Mrs. Gandhi had promised to show President K.R. Narayanan by Friday that her plan to form a Congress-only minority government was supported by 272 members of legisla-

ture. Although that effort Sonia Gandhi's Congress failed, she was set to meet the president anyway.

If no one succeeds in in parliament to form a new forming a government, government, raising the India would face its third election in three years.

The Bombay stock exchange sensitive index dropped 1.2 per cent and the national stock exchange, the country's largest, fell by I per cent at the news. Although an elections call would drive the markets lower, investors said they would prefer the stability that a new round of voting might bring to the fractious 15-party legislature.

Earlier, leaders of two leftist parties that cootrol seven parliament seats told the president they would not support a Congress government, while the leader of a five-seat party representing lower castes said the party preferred elections to choosing between Congress and the BJP.

"Both BJP and Congress are responsible for the poor state of the country." Yadav said in a written statement issued after his meeting with the president. He said the economic policies of previous Congress governments had plunged the country into debt, and that the Hindu-Nanonalist coali-



Spokesman for Mulayam Singh Yadav's Socialist Party Mohammad Azam Khan (left) gestures as he addresses a press conference after north Indian regional leader Yadav, who holds 20 precious seats in parliament, withdrew his support from the Congress party in forming a new government April 23, 1999. The decision deepened the confusion left by the collapse of the Hindu oationalist government April 17, with the prospect of fresh elections looming even larger. At right is party spokesman Aram Singh (AFP photo)

"Under these circumstances the Samajwadi party will not support any party which is trying to form a government," Yadav

However, Amar Singh, the general-secretary Yadav's party. reporters, "we don't want elections.

Mrs. Gandhi's foreign ori-gin and lack of political experience have been points

tion headed by the BJP had Minister Atal Bihari Congress potential backers, encouraged sectarianism. Vajpayee collapsed after as well as opponents. "It is a hard fact that Sonia Jayaram Jayalalitha withdrew the support of her regional party, known by its Gandhi has no political or

parliamentary experience and she is much junior to Tamil-language acronym, AIADMK, Jayalalitha met the president on Thursday her own party colleagues."

BJP Vice President K.L.

Sharma told reporters

Despite all this, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, who proved to be a reluctant citizen of India, of foreign origin, has been projected as the lone choice of the Coogress. ... the campaign has just boomeranged. Gandhi, 52, the widow of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, entered politics last year. She adopted Indian citizenship 16 years after

ber marriage. Rajiv Gandhi, wbo was prime minister uotil 1989, was assassinated in 1991. His mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was assassi-

of contention for some of government led by Prime Quake hits S. African Militia burn houses of gold mining town separatists in E. Timor

The

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A strong earthquake hit the South African gold mining to other shafts to bring them town of Welkom on Friday. to the surface after a power forcing the evacuation of failure." The miners, who

scale, halted operations at a produces about 15 tonnes of mine operated by the world's biggest gold producer, Anglogold Ltd.

The company said it was working to bring miners back to the surface through alternative mine shafts after power was cut.

There were no reports of deaths or serious injuries caused by the quake, which struck overnight at 2220 GMT and shook the town for six seconds, or from a series of aftershocks which lasted up to three hours after the initial seismic shock.

There will be no production at the Matjhabeng (mine) today or tomorrow... We don't have any people trapped or injured." an

"We had to reroute workers and causing widespread damage to buildings.

The tremor, which measured 4.2 on the Picher.

gold a year.

South Africa has some of the deepest mines io the world, with shafts stretching some three km below

The temperatures at these depths is nearly 30 degrees Celsius, but the heat would soar to more deadly levels if not for the huge refrigeration units pumping cool air from the surface.

A miner's deadliest enemies at these depths are earth tremors which can collapse a tunnel or rock

At another mine two years ago, a 3.1 tremor trapped 15 miners for several hours about 3 km underground

Anglogold spokesman said. before they were rescued in what was nicknamed the 'great escape"

South African gold mines are safer than they were years ago, but rock falls, pressure bursts, explosions and other accidents still claimed 267 lives and injured 5.449 in 1997.

In Welkom, situated in free state province, buildings were reported to have suffered heavy structural damage and water and power supplies cut.

The emergency services are on the ground at the moment trying to restore services... The situation is under control as of now." police spokeswoman Elsabe Augoustides told the South African Press Association. have Police been deployed in the free state

province town to prevent looting. Earthquakes measuring between four and five are powerful enough to cause heavy damage in populated

DILL Indonesia (AP) -

Pro-Indonesian militiamen burned ..eight... bouses belooging to separatist activists in East Timor, one day after leaders of the rival factions signed a peace deal, police said

and pledged the support of her 18 lawmakers to the

Congress party.

The attack in the town of Amberio cast doubt on pledges of reconciliation by armed groups that this month have killed dozens of people suspected of campaigning for indepen-dence in the Indonesianterritory. controlled Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and annexed

it a year later. A group of 100 assailants with clubs and machetes poured gasoline Thursday inside the houses, most of which had been abandoned by fearful separatists, a police officer said.

Three men were taken to a hospital with stab wounds, said the officer. who did not identify himself in line with police pro-

Residents said the attackers were members-of red and white iron, a militia that attacked villagers on April 6 in a church compound in the town of Liquica. Religious leaders said at least 25 people died.

On Wednesday, militia leaders and their pro-independence foes signed a peace agreement that failed to address the key issues of disarmament and the political future of the former Portuguese colony.

The deal was signed in Dili, the seaside capital of East Timor and site of a miliua rampage on April 17 that left as many as 20 people dead. It was followed by a symbolic handover to police of 11 firearms belonging to militia groups that remain heavily armed.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, negotiators said Thursday that Indonesia probably won't sign onto a U.N. autonomy proposal for East Timor at talks this week because it oeeds more time for consultations at home.

In a policy reversal, Indonesia has said it would let go of East Timor if its people reject an autonomy offer in a July ballot. However, escalating violence between supporters and opponents of independeoce has jeopardised the

The Indooesian military has been accused of arming pro-government militias to fight Timorese separatists and disrupt the ballot. Meanwhile, separatist guerrillas have stepped up attacks on security forces.

Police speculated that the attack io Ambeno, 260 kilometres west of Dili, was retaliation for the alleged kidnapping a week ago of three militiamen by pro-independence activists.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bonn says German reporter accused of spying

BONN (AP) - Yugoslavia has accused a detained German television reporter of spying, the foreigo ministry said Friday. Hans-Peter "Pit" Schnitzler, southeast Europe correspondent for the Sat-1 network, is being held by Yugoslav military police at an unknown location, mioistry spokesman Andreas Michaelis said. The spokesman rejected the spying accusation as groundless and demanded Schnitzler's release. Sat-1 "knows about his professional activities at the time of his detention, and on that basis ties at the time of his detention, and on that basis there is not the slightest evidence to justify such charges," Micbaelis said. Schnitzler has not been formally charged with spying, he said. Germany bas sent a diplomatic note seeking access to Schnitzler, but there has been no answer from Yugoslavia, Michaelis said. Germany is dealing with Japaoese diplomats in Belgrade, who are handling German interests in Yugoslavia since relations broke off over the war for Kosovo. Satal said last weekend it had lost contact Kosovo. Sat-1 said last weekend it had lost contact with 56-year-old Schnitzler io Yugoslavia after Serbian authorities seized his equipment and car and he was supposed to be headed home. He left Belgrade around midday Friday and was to have contacted his editors after reaching the Croatian border, but no call ever came, according to the network. Sat-1 said it had told Schnitzler, based in Vienna, Austria, to leave Belgrade because the loss of his equipment and car made it impossible for him to work.

Cuba criticised at **Human Rights Commission**

GENEVA (AFP) — The Human Rights Commissioo censured Cuba for human rights abuses on Friday by passing a resolution calling on Havana to respect fundamental freedoms. The 53-member commission narrowly passed the resolution spoosored by the Czech Republic and Poland by 21 votes to 20. There were 12 abstentious. The resolution expressed its concern at the "cootinued violation" of human rights in Cuba, iocluding freedom of expressioo, association and assembly. The resolution also highlighted the "continued repressioo" of political opponents and the detention of dissidents, most receotly of the four members of "Grupo de Trabajo de la Disidencia Interna." The Cuban government was urged to release all people detained for peacefully expressing their political, religious and social views. The resolution also called oo Havana to sign U.N. human rights covenants. Last year, Coba defeated a human rights resolution sponsored by the United States.

Sri Lanka begins forensic tests on mass grave

COLOMBO (AFP) - Sri Lankan authorities have beguo forensic tests on some two dozen skeletoos. found. at a play ground in the island's embattled, oorthern town of Jaffna, officials said Friday. The remains unearthed from the Duraippa Stadium early in April were brought to Colombo Thursday for tests, officials said. The Jaffna district judge A.E. Ehananthan, who was present at the exhumation, has ordered tests oo the bones which some officials believe could belong to people who died or were killed about 10 years ago. The latest discovery came as the authorities were investigating an alleged mass grave at Chemmani in the Jaffoa peninsula where some 400 to 600 Tamil meo and women, victims of extra-judicial. killings, are believed to be buried. Police have begun recording statements from relatives of victims and forensic tests in the Chemmani case are underway. Government forces wrested control of Jaffoa io December 1995 after driving out the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam who ruled the region as a de facto separate state for nearly five

China finds recorders from Korean Air crash

SHANGHAI (R) — China has recovered both the flight data and cockpit voice recorders from last week's crash of a Korean Air cargo plane, industry sources and an official oewspaper said on Friday. They bave found the flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder," an industry source said, "It looks like the flight data recorder was probably pretty badly damaged and they're going to try to retrieve some data off of it." The MD-11 beavy freighter crashed shortly after takeoff from Shanghai on April 15. killing nine people - including the three crewmeo — and injuring more than 30 oo the ground. The Sbanghai star said the "black boxes" were recovered this week and bad been sent to the united states for analysis. The newspaper quoted an official of the South Korean consulate in Shanghai as saying the flight data recorder bad been severely damaged by explosion and it was unclear if the device could provide information about the crash. Officials from China's aviation general administration, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board all declined to comment. Korean Air, South Korea's oatiooal carrier, annouoced a management shakeup oo Thursday after senior executives resigned to take responsibility for the crash and a spate of mishaps.

Funeral mistake — wrong body in casket

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Mourners at a fuoeral service were aggrieved to find the wrong body in their beloved's casket, according to a report Friday. At the service oo Monday night, the widow of a 79-year-old Melbourne man asked for a final viewiog of her hushand's body. Parish Priest Father Julian told Channel 10 TV that the 80 mourners were stunced whee they found that the body shown to the woman was not her hushand's. "I talked to them and I said to them: 'Now we'll wait for the other body, the true body, to come'," the priest said. The service proceeded after the man's body was located at the funeral company's headquarters. Funeral director John Grant said two identical coffins had stood side by side and a staff member put the wroog name plate on ooe of them. "It's every funeral director's nightmare that mistakes like this can happen," Grant said. Grant said the employee was devastated and that the company had made an official apology and offered financial compensation.

لمِكذا صد لِدُصِل

Al Fayed lawyers seek British diplomats on Diana death

PARIS (AFP) — An appeals court here is to examine a request by lawyers of Egyptian husinessman

Mohammed Al Fayed to interview two British diplomats about the death of Britain's Princess Dinna and her enmpaninn Dodi Al Fayed, legal sources confirmed Friday.

Al Fayed's lawyers, Bernard Darteville and Georges Kiejman, made the appeal after the judges investigating the August 1997 car crash that killed Diana and Al Fayed's son Dodi allegedly refused to

interview the diplomats. One of the diplomats is said to he a member of Britain's counter-espi-

onage service MI6. They asked the judges to carry out the interafter heing informed on Jan. 29 that the inquiry had heen wrapped up.

Al Fayed, the owner of the British luxury store. Been traced.

Harrods, has repeatedly accused British secret services of heing behind the deaths of his son and Diana, as well as their driver, in a car crash in a Parisian road tunnel.

He has accused the British establishment of never having been able to accept the idea that the mother of their future king was living with a Muslim.

The inquiry found that the three died when their Mercedes car, travelling at high speed and chased hy press photographers, hit the 13th pillar of the Alma

Bridge road tunnel. The driver, Rene Paul, was found to have been drinking hefore the

accident. Despite exhaustive investigations, a white Fiat Uno car which was said to have hit the Mercedes just before the crash has never

Aid agencies pull out of rebel-infested western Uganda ly targeting the Picfare food for distribution to the

International aid agencies have withdrawn from westem Uganda's Bundibugyo district due to increased rebel violence in the region by Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), aid officials said Friday.

"We decided to pull out after the rebel attack in Bundibugyo town on Monday night. We are not planning to suspend operations, but we are just waiting to see how the situation develops," U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) country representative in Uganda, Michael Jones.

told AFP here. Medecins sans Frontieres-France (Doctors without Borders - MSF-- France) has also pulled out of the area, while British agency. Actionaid. withdrew last month because of the deteri-

orating security situation. The WFP's move came rebels entered Bundibugyo town on Monday night and began shooting, killing at least two civilians and wounding an unknown number of others. The rebels were reportedHotel in Bundibugyo town, a popular joint for army commanders in the area.

Rebel activities io the west have increased since the start of the year, since when at least 80 people have died in raids, including 30 killed last week in attacks on Bundibugyo and the neighbouring Kabarole

Aid agencies estimate that between 50,000 and 70,000 people have been displaced . em by the rebel violence in Bundibugyo district alone. Since the start of April,

the Ugandan army has instituted military convoys to escort vehicles moving along the main road linking Bundibugyo town to the rest of the country.

"We are definitely going to remain in the region in the next few months, as the displaced people have now missed the planting season. They also lack plastic sbeeting for cover from rain - a great potential for cholera due to poor sanitarion," Jones told AFP.

WFP was in the process of delivering 200 tonnes of our desires - what we

displaced when they were forced to halt operations. The ADF rebels — a

coalition of a formerly defunct National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU) rebel group and the Tabliq Islamic sect, said to be aided by ex-government soldiers from Rwanda and former Zaire, now renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - have been active in west-Uganda

> November 1996. They currently operate out of camps in the Ruwenzori Mountains straddling the common border with the DRC).

Uganda justified its intervention in the eight-month civil war in the DRC on the grounds that President Laureot Kabila allowed rebel groups to operate out of eastern DRC. Last weekend. Kabila and Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni signed a peace pact at a meeting in Libya, but a Kampala government spokesman later said that it "was simply a statement of

would like to bappen in Congo". Other major players. including Rwanda and the

DRC rebels themselves,

have not signed the deal. Meanwhile, NALU bas warned in a letter faxed to the Association of British Travel Agents that U.S. and European nationals, particularly from Britain, Germany and Scandinavian nations. will be rebel targets because of their nations' support for the Ugandan government, which they accuse of being undemocratic.

NALU had earlier claimed responsibility for the March 1 killings of 10 foreign tourists and four Ugandans at southwest Uganda's Bwindi National Park, but survivors and locals denied this, saying the attackers spoke French and had identified themselves as Rwandan Hutu rebels.

NALU was active up to 1992 when its leader was killed while in exile in Kenya and remained dormant until 1996 when it was revived and teamed up with

WS IN BRIEF

says German reporter accused of spying

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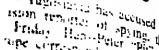
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There

staff members were temporally taken hostage. said fighting continued Wednesday night between rebels and army Wednesday

woman of all continents', chosen by an international jury (AFP photo)

Authorities referred to the activity merely as "cleaning-up operations." Aid workers, who were flown Thursday to Monrovia aboard a U.N. helicopter, said the armed men had commandeered 13 relief vehicles and stole their personal

belongings.
They also reported widespread looting by government security forces of U.N. warehouses as well as private residences following the retreat of the attackers from the town.

One aid official said the Guineans shot and wounded relief driver John Kamara for refusto his vehicle. He also said the body

ing to turn over the keys

at the Voinjama hospital, was taken away by his colleagues when they were retreating from the city Centre.

WFP's regional direc-tor for west Africa, Paul Ares, described the armed men as "a rag-tag group without any command structure.'

Meanwhile, hundreds of fleeing civilians, including Sterra Leonean Voinjama and nearby villages, have arrived in the Liberian central city of Gbarnga, 160 km northeast of Monrovia, seek-

Richard Roberts told the independent The

before

war-ravaged country.

'More Khmer Rouge leaders could face charges'

Notorious Khmer Rouge leaders Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea will likely face criminal charges in Cambodian courts, Prime Minister Hun Sen said in an interview aired Friday.

Hun Sen said prosecutors investigating former Khmer Rouge military chief Ta Mok would also most likely level charges against former head of state Khieu Sampban and ideology tsar Nuon Chea.

"According to my knowledge, because the scale of the genocide is so great they cannot avoid (being charged by prosecu-lors)," Hun Sen said on state-run television.

"What happens to Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea is that they will most likely confront charges from

prosecutors," he said. The ultra-Maoist Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia from 1975-1979 during which up to two million people died through torture, starvation, overwork

His comments were a stunning reversal of earlier claims that any attempt to bring them to trial could send the country back into a state of civil war.

"Ta Mok was arrested. Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea surrendered, but surrender to the government doesn't mean they are free from being charged by the courts," Hun Sen said. He said they bad only

been allowed to surrender and were given no guarantees of immunity from future prosecution. To charge or not to charge these people is the

job of the prosecutors, not our (the government's) duty. To my understanding they might be charged. "I think the court will not just investigate Ta Mok only, but others as well in

added. The prime minister made no mention of former Khmer Rouge foreign minister leng Sary, who defected to the government

in 1996, and is living in a

the same package," he

newly-built villa in the capital Phnom Penh. Meanwhile Friday, the

military court investigating judge responsible for the case against Ta Mok dismissed "speculation" that he had decided to call Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea and leng Sary as witnesses in Ta Mok's trial.

"Only I know who will be a witness, nobody else. Some people speculate that Nuon Chea, Khieu Samphan and Ieng Sary are involved, but that is speculation." Ngin Sam An told reporters.

Everybody knows that they may be involved in the case, but nothing has been decided yet," he said, adding a summons would soon be issued for those required as witnesses. Ta Mok, the former chief

of staff of the late Khmer Rouge supremo Pol Pot, was arrested on March 6. Dubbed "the butcher" for his fearsome reputation, Ta Mok has been charged under a 1994 law outlaw-

ment, whose long-running rebellion fizzled out last year following a string of defeats and defections.

Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea surrendered to the government on Christmas Eve 1998 and now live in comfortable retirement in Pailin, the former northern stronghold of the Khmer Rouge. Pol Pot, who as head of the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia with an iron fist in the 1970s, died in the jungles bordering Thailand in April last year.

Although Ta Mok is the only Khmer Rouge leader to have been charged and facing trial, genocide researchers have been pinning their hopes on him implicating former com-

Despite calls by the international community and the United Nations for an international tribunal. Hun Sen has insisted on a local trial with the aid of foreign judges and proseing the now-faded Khmer cutors.

Massive looting of Liberia border town following attack

Newly elected 'Miss Intercontinental' Mine Erbaykent from Turkey (centre) poses with second placed Miredis

Peguero from Puerto Rico (left) and third placed Veronica Gonzales from Uruguay, early April 23, 1999, in

Bochum. Twenty seven women aged between 17 and 26 years took part in the elections for 'the most beautiful

Gunmen from Guinea who attacked a northern Liberia border town earlier this week looted offices of aid organisaforces in the bush outside tions and U.N. agencies, officials said on Friday.

U.S.-based International Rescue Committee (IRC) operat-International ing in Voinjama, 260 km north of the Liberian capital, said massive looting of its offices forced staff to suspend operations in the town.

The Liberian govern-ment said its forces repelled Wednesday's attack, during which for-eign diplomats and 17 aid workers were temporarily kidnapped. However indepen sources told journalists

that some fighting was still taking place around Voinjama and in nearby villages.

(WFP), whose seven

On Thursday, the U.N. World Food Programme of one attacker, who died

The regional director of he U.N. High High the Commissioner Refugees (UNHCR), Abu Moussa, said the attackers were armed with AK-47s, rocket-propelled grenades and machetes.

ing refuge.

Inquirer newspaper that the insurgents had captured hundreds of residents and temporarily brought them to a nearby government hospital government

forces moved in. "They (the insurgents) took part of the town and the military barracks. ...they took uniforms and wore them," he said in Gbarnga.

He said the attackers did not identify them-selves but told their captives that they had "all fought the seven-yearold war."

In 1989, Charles Taylor launched a rebellion against the bloodstained regime of former president Samuel Doe. embroiling a handful of ethnic factions and resulting in the deaths of an estimated 200.000 Liberians.

In 1997, Taylor was elected president of the

Britain calls MI5 into bomb blast probe

LONDON (R) - Britain's domes- the area where the bomb went off tic intelligence agency MI5 has been called in to help investigate a London bomb attack which is believed to be linked to extremist racist groups, a police spokesman said on Friday. The Scotland Yard spokesman

said four far right groups had so far claimed responsibility for last Saturday's nail bomb explosion in a market street in Brixton, an area with a large black population.

"We are treating this as a racist Detective Chief crime," Superintendent John Bunn told a news conference.

On Monday, the already known racist group Combat 18 claimed responsibility for the attack in which nearly 40 people were injured.

Bunn revealed that on the same day three other far right groups had claimed responsibility. He did not name them.

positions in the alphabet of Adolf Hitler's initials. Many community leaders in Brixton are convinced the bomb was directly aimed at the local

black population. Bunn said police investigations were complicated by the possibility in Brixton may not have been the original target.

He said a bus broke down in the area before the explosion, and the bomber may have been a passen-

"It is possible the bomber got off the bus and was on his way somewhere else," Bunn said. Bunn said that aside from Irish

Republican Army (IRA) and Middle Eastern guerrilla attacks in the 1980s, there had been no similar bomb explosions for "many "MI5 has become involved in

the inquiry," he said.

The famed agency has responsibility for counter intelligence operations in Britain.

Racial tension in London rose sharply in February after an inquiry slammed police for their handling of a probe into the fatal stabbing six years ago of an 18-year-old black

Police were accused of institutional racism and professional incompetence in failing to bring anyone to justice despite investigations of five prime suspects.

Race riots ravaged Brixton in the 1980s and were blamed on heavyhanded policing of the community.

'Yeltsin healthy enough to stay on'

MOSCOW (R) — Russian and hoarse-voiced.
President Boris Yeltsin is "Boris Nikol healthy enough to stay in power even past the end of his presidential term in 2000, his chief Kremlin doctor said in a newspaper interview published on Friday.

"Boris Nikolayevich cannot run 10 kilometres and could not work out with 200 kilogramme weights... but he's quite capable of something else," Sergei Mironov told Komsomolskaya Pravda,

Doubts about the president's bealth are a constant political question in Russia, and rare interviews with his doctors often draw the attention of those trying to guess Yeltsin's next move. Ill-health has forced Yeltsin to the sidelines for months, but he has been

known to defy predictions and bounce back. In recent weeks he has increased his visibility and made a number of strong statements against NATO air strikes on Kosovo, although he bas

"Boris Nikolayevich's form today is good enough to let him carry on even beyond 2000," Mironov said. Yeltsin has said he would step down when his four-year second term ends.

Mironov said Yeltsin, 68, has often been a difficult patient, ignoring advice that he work less hard.

"First of all he is the president and therefore we can only recommend, not dictate, things to him," Mironov said. "There is no doctor who has enough power to limit the length of the president's working day." Mironov said Yeltsin normally goes to bed at 10.00 p.m., but he needs only berween four and five hours of rest a day. He

day.
"We think he should sleep for longer," he said.

Yeltsin was taken to hospital twice this year after suffering an acute bleeding stomach ulcer in January. He still appeared slow-moving had heart surgery in 1996.

Pope challenges artists to inspire next millennium

VATICAN CITY (AP) -- Pope John Paul II, a poet and playwright as well as video star, is calling on men and women of the arts to join forces to chart a new. spiritual course for humanity in

the next millennium.

In a letter released by the Vancan on Friday, John Paul said he is counting on creative people to provide inspiration in a "new alliance" between the church and

Noting that he lives and works among some of the most splendid masterpieces of all time -Michelangelo and Raphael's artistry to architecture by Bernini in St. Peter's Square - the Pope wrote that the church's dealings with the arts was steeped in time.

"With this letter, I turn to you, the artists of the world, to assure you of my esteem and to help consolidate a more constructive partnership between art and the church," the Ponniff wrote.

millennium, my hope for all of you who are artists is that you will have an especially intense experience of creative inspiration," the Pope added.

"On the threshold of the third

them to wonder."

"May the beauty which you pass on to generations still to come be such that it will stir

"Thanks to this enthusiasm. humanity, every time it loses its way, will be able to lift itself up and set out again on the right path." the letter said. A playwright and actor in his

Polisb youth, and a best-selling author and CD-video star after he became Pontiff, John Paul told artists he felt "closely linked by experiences reaching far back in time and which have indelibly marked my life."

John Paul said art could help reveal "the sacredness of life and of the human person." An Italian director, Ermanno Olmi, and a best-selling writer. Susanna Tamaro, were on hand to make public the papal Jener.

Tamaro, whose writings are imbued with musings on the role of faith in life and the author of a column in a widely read Italian weekly magazine, lamented that "artists don't have any weight and are a kind of Indian reserva-

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More witnesses in Macau mob boss trial say they saw nothing

boss looked confident and relaxed as his trial wrapped up Friday, with knowledge of an alleged attempt to intimidate gaming table workers at Macau's biggest casino.

The lead judge acknowledged outside the courtroom that the prosecution was suffering some shortcomings in its case against wan Kuok-Koi, alias broken Tooth Koi," "Usually in cases like this, witnesses have a hard time coming forward," said judge Joso Torrao, who is presiding over a three-judge panel that will deliver

verdicts Thursday. That is the problem. Torrao told a reporter. "What can we do

MACAU (AP) - A reputed crime without proof?" Wan, 44, is accused of coercing the Lisboa casino employees to stop working witness after witness denying any at a Chinese dominoes garning table run by rival gambling figure Lau Wing-Kung, in hopes of harming Lau's business. The coercion charge carries a penalty of up to

five years in prison. Macau's casinos have seen profits dwindle amid Asia's economic crisis, and mobsters have been fighting hard over what's left over. Macau, which is about 64 km west of Hong Kong, reverts later this year from Portuguese to Chinese

Nobody called to testify on

Friday seemed to know anything

about any infimidation attempts by

Wan, who allegedly is a boss in Macau's notorious 14k Chinese Triad gang. The prosecution played a videotape from security cameras at the Lisboa that showed Wan and about 10 other people moving through

a co-defendant, Leung Weng-Sang, who was filmed talking to workers at the gaming table. ing it at the table.

Leung also was shown picking up a metal money box and throw-In closing arguments, prosecutor

Manuel Corga said the tape proved

his case, arguing that in one seg-

ment, Wan's gestures showed "that

everything was premeditated."

the casino's various gaming rooms.

Later, Wan was shown along with

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NATO's new role

AS NATO celebrates its 50th anniversary, the conflict over Kosovo threatens to turn into an ail-out war that might engulf the whole of the Balkan region. The war, which the West does not recognise as such, is putting NATO's identity and sense of mission at stake. Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has been searching for a new role and identity. For a while, Islam replaced communism as a threat to 'the West. But that "danger" soon went into an eclipse when it was realised that Islam as such does not really pose any threat to any civilisation or nation.

Ethnic cleansing and genocidal warfare waged by the Serhs against their fellow Bosnian Muslims in the mid- nineties and the subsequent ethnic uprising in the former Yugoslavia provided NATO with a new set of circumstances that helped it find a new role for itself. It intervened militarily to stop the bloodshed in Bosnia and broker a peace deal at Dayton, Ohio between the fighting factions.

The Kosovo crisis offered NATO another opportunity to assert itself in Europe. When NATO finally acted to stop another wave of ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and the mass cold blooded killing of ethnic Albanians on moral grounds, it had set a precedent for itself as well as for the international community. While Belgrade and Moscow see in the NATO intervention an attempt to extend NATO's sphere of influence and destroy the only remaining communist state in eastern Europe, NATO capitals view their military strikes against Yugoslavia as a legitimate attempt to stop a naked affront on Western principles in the European continent

NATO has in effect changed from a purely defensive alliance into a machine intent on the principles of democracy human rights and preventing crimes against humanity in the heartland of Europe. NATO issued repeated threats and ultimatums to Yugoslavia to stop its carnage to the extent that NATO's own credibility became at stake. When war broke out, it was clear from the start that NATO cannot lose the war. Belgrade should realise, therefore, that NATO cannot emerge from this war without a decisive victory. The prestige and credibility of NATO are at the core of the conflict and not only the crisis' moral and ethical dimensions. The international community it appears cannot rely only on the U.N. to stop war crimes and crimes against humanity. The international organisation has become literally paralysed in the face of the veto power of its five permanent members. As long as the Security Council cannot function properly, swiftly and effectively in the face of grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law, there will always be a need for NATO to fill the vacuum. That's exactly what happened over the Kosovo conflict. The irony in all this is that NATO is still not poised to intervene so forcefully elsewhere in the world where similar war crimes and crimes against humanity could

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Kheirallah Kheirallah commented on the significance of recent developments in Kosovo. NATO is not going to want to lose its first war since it was established 50 years ago, and it will be ready to send ground forces to Kosovo as soon as the allies feel that airstrikes have fulfilled their purpose, Kheirallah said. Thus, airstrikes against Serbian forces, and attempts to destroy infrastructure will continue, "sending" Yugoslavia back in time. Kheirallah added. Iraq is aware of what is happening in Kosovo, and it should hastily be improving its internal situation, instead of "gambling" on Milosevic winning the war, said the writer. If any party in Baghdad is interested in getting Iraq out of trouble, it should exploit the Kosovo war to launch a dialogue with the U.S., as the most important thing to "rescue" the Iraqi people, even at the expense of the regime, he argued.

Al Dustour's Oreib Rintawi commented on Prime Minister Abdur-Rajuf S. Rawabdeh's recent statements that Jordan's media is terrified and that it should be a voice for the whole nation and not only the government. Although the statement itself was not new, Rawabdeh's "tone of voice," and his record are grounds for optimism that the media situation will be improving, said Rintawi. The writer said that random appointments of many unqualified people and administrative incompetence have troubled the media's performance, and he agrees with Rawabdeh's statement. Junior employees and officials should not be blamed, as the "successive gencrations" of high-ranking officials have been responsible for the media's problems, he added. In this respect, Jordan's official media shares the same problems as similar systems in the Arab World, where the official media suffers from tunnel vision and "shyness," and always fear "hot" topics and defend officials, according to Rintawi. The writer hoped that Rawabdeh's inclination to support and protect those who want to improve the media will be implemented.

Regional tour an unqualified success

summit held last week was the crowning factor in the concerted campaign launched by His Majesty King Abdullah to straighten out Jordan's relations with the Arab World and give them an additional push, so that the Kingdom's Arab brethren recognise Jordan's aim of maintaining a perfectly balanced relationships.

The King's ongoing Arab tour started with Egypt and took in Saudi Arahia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Libya in addition to Syria.

Other countries in the King's itinerary include the rest of the Arab states in the Gulf as well as some in North Africa before he proceeds to Washington on his first trip there as the head of state of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The central theme throughout the King's talks with his Arah counterparts has been simple and straight: The state of peace between Jordan and Israel is the result of a strategic option adopted hy the Kingdom. While there cannot he any turning back from this, Jordan is committed to ensuring that its ties with Israel are not at the expense of its relations with Arah countries and

SYRIAN-JORDANIAN have no bearing whatsoever on the Kingdom's Arab identity.

Similarly, while Jordan is anxof the people of Iraq, it supports the Arab majority view that Baghdad should adhere to and implement the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions as a condition for a total and complete end to the sweeping U.N. sanctions imposed on that country. However, Jordan also sees it as its Muslim. Arab and humanitarian obligation to do whatever it can to alleviate the

suffering of the people of Iraq.

That position should not be seen as support and endorsement of the policies and actions of the Iraqi regime. Jordan opposes any foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Iraq, and believes that such meddling would only result in chaos and disaster - the dismemberment of that country would be catastrophic for the entire region.

These were the central themes for King Abdullah's discussions with his Arab counterparts. And from what we have seen so far, it is clear that the message has not only been received loud and clear in the Arab World but has also drawn a highly positive response.

The warmth of the welcome

King Abdullah received in the Gulf. particularly the United Arab Emirates, whose leader Sbeikh ious to see an end to the suffering Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan is known for his farsightedness and

> Two other political heavyweights in the region. King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, have equally strongly accepted and endorsed King Ahdullah's campaign to make clear Jordan's political stands. And the enthusiasm with which Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi welcomed and treated King Abdullah in Libya was a forerunner for the crowning glory — the Monarch's visit to Damascus and talks with President Hafez Al Assad.

One could delve deeper and analyse why and how Jordan is consolidating its relations with the Arab World.

There are many in the region and outside who would argue that the late King Hussein had already made clear Jordan's positions to the Arab World, and the Arab leaders should have accepted it on good faith.

But that is not the way things work in the Arab World.

There are things that need to be done — and not be taken for

Jordanian **Perspective**

political acumen.

Dr. Musa Keilani

granted as having heen accomplished — and words that need to be said in person — and not be taken for granted as messages already conveyed. That principle approach have heen embraced hy King Abdullah and hence his Arab tour - not to mention the very basic concept of paying his respects to his Arab elders hy visiting them in their homes.

Assad was indeed seen as the most difficult among them all, given the strain in ties between Amman and Damascus since the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in October 1994 against the backdrop of the basic difference in strategy in the peace process with Israel. But, as reported last week. Assad has come to terms with the reality of Jordan's strategic decisions and told King Abdullah that he was opening a new era in bilateral

We, in Jordan, have every reason to be jubilant about the success of our King in streamlining the country's relations at the Arab level — the ground for which was paved indeed by the Arab, regional and international turnout for King Hussein's funeral.

In fact, the warmth that greeted King Abdullah at every Arab capital he visited is an emphatic Arab recognition of the wisdom of his father's decision to name him as the heir to the Hashemite Throne. Arab leaders have come to appreciate that King Hussein's decision to name Abdullah as his Crown Prince only a few days before his death did not come out of a vacuum, but stemmed from his conviction in the abilities and skills of his son. As such, the qualitative leap that Jordan's relations with Arabs have taken is as much a testimony of King Hussein's farsightedness as the emergence of Abdullah's skills as a statesman and head of state fit to follow in the footsteps of his father.

Terrified of the press law

IN THE laid-back and relatively calm atmosphere of Jordan, exciting develop-ments are far and few in between. There are no presidents, for example, under attack for lying about their sexual adventures, as one would find in the U.S. This, however, is probably due to the fact that there aren't even any presidents. Nor are there bombing campaigns or mass expulsions of ethnic minorities, as is currently the case in Europe. People are always asking me about the state of my affairs, and I usually have to answer that things are about the same. Last week, however, a bombshell of sons knocked me out of my comfortable, if somewhat staid, routine. An announcement was made that cut right to the heart of the human experience, or at least the experience of those burnans involved in journalistic matters in Jordan. The official Jordanian media, Prime Minister Abdur-Ra'uf S. Rawabdeh revealed on one recent afternoon, sucks.

The good premier didn't use that term. of course. A "terrified department" that lacks creativity and the ability to accurately convey useful information is the phrase he used to describe the media. But the meaning is the same. And, in any event, whether one prefers assessing the media's performance in Rawabdeh's terms, which are more descriptive, or mine, which are more blunt and, I believe, more accurate, the country's information organs, including radio, television and newspapers, are in a sorry

It's not difficult for any reasonable person to reach the same conclusion that Rawabdeh and I have. Television programming is full of nite, boring shows. Print media focuses more on what prominent figures attending such-andsuch meeting rather than what was discussed or agreed upon. Jordan Television's Channel Three mysteriousy broadcasis for a few hours per week before disappearing off the airwaves. lending it the appearance of a pirate station operated by a bored, rich, nerdy teenager in Abdoun rather than a bona fide channel. Every outlet, wherever one looks, is apparently affected by this media malaise. Rawabdeh's bold proclamation hopeful will serve as the opening shot in the war to salvage the official information outlets from ignominious

However, it is difficult to believe that the media could have sunk to such lows without warning in a manner so sudden so as to preclude government action. If. in fact, the media is in dire straights, as the prime minister and I believe, then previous governments, as the sponsors of official information outlets, deserve full blame, at the very least for gross incompetence but probably for being active agents in such mediocrity. Interference in the affairs of newspapers and stations, failure to divulge vital information for the public record, various officials who, in addition to their duties in the government, take upon themselves the roles of English teacher. Arabic transliterator, and editor, and various other acts cut into journalistic

One also wonders what agent, real or imaginary, caused the media to become "terrified." It is possible, of course, that the media is "terrified" by some irrational factor, much like some young children are frightened of the dark, but let's. as the hlunt saying goes, cut the crap. If the media is terrified, it is for a very real reason, and this reason has a name: the Press and Publications Law. Suppose, for instance, that I write an article which warns of possible risks to the value of the Jordanian dinar. In such case, I face the threat of prison and/or fines, because anything that can be construed as harming the national currency is an offence under this law (Article 42, paragraph 12). This is tantamount to sending a doctor to jail for giving a patient a worrying diagnosis. Let's try another scenario: an article with my hyline urges all people who believe that the earth is flat to meet in a local cafe to discuss means of coun-

Out of Order



Brian Brown

tering projected issued by "round-earthers," In this case, the editorial staff risk imprisonment and/or fines, since publishing anything that incites "public gatherings" violates Article 42, para-graph 14. The media has a right to be terrified, because anything published can be used against them in a court of law.

This is the state of the official media here in Jordan. The situation as it is needs more than a "frank" assessment of what is wrong, because everyone knows there are major problems. Practical steps, such as scrapping the press law, should be taken to end the "terror" and mediocrity afflicting journalists. And a little more pay wouldn't hurt either, Failure to move beyond simplistic diagnoses is just like the pot calling the kettle

RECOMMENDED READING: Angela's Ashes, by Frank McCourt. Irish eyes aren't smiling in this novel, which recounts the author's childhood in the city of Limerick. McCourt presents one comical episode of his life after another, all against the backdrop unmitigated misery and poverty in the 1940s and 50s in Ireland. The author hits every emotion in Angela's Ashes with his account of bullying schoolmasters, perpetual hunger and the English.

Time for change in the media

Compiled by Mohammad Ben Hussein

Columnists last week commented on Prime Minister Abdur Ra'uf S. Rawabdeh's criticisms of the official media. They also discussed the current changes in the media.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Mohammad Subeihi commenting on Rawabdeh's remarks, said the Prime minister is entering a horse race riding a mule. Rawabdeh is mistaken if he thinks he can inject courage in Jordan's media by mocking it for not being bold enough to present the other side's point of view, said Subeihi.

three points: First. boldness and initiatives are a gifts from God and Rawabdeh cannot expect officials to sudden-

ly have talents, said writer. Secondly, acting with courage which does not exist would kill the remaining credibility of the official media. which will be negatively reflected on the government's credibility, said Snbeihi. Third, the prime minister cannot blame the failure of official media on its financial state, because listening to others' opinions does not need more than self-confidence and a political deci-

sion to open the space for

the other to express their

opinions concerning caus-

es of common interest,

said Subeihi.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Salameh Ne'mat said repeated governments, not the media leaderships, were terrified and powerless when faced with demands for reform and political openness. The old mentality in the official media leadership is still the same, except for one or two names, said Ne mat. The government's latest move to change its media leaderships was dominated by these same old mentalities. How could a person who failed for 10 years be a success all of a sudden, asked the writer. The writer charged that the current changes in the media leaderships will not meet expectations, because the head of any particular media institution will not be able to make a significant change unless be is able to replace incompetent staff by professionals. And if

he cannot pay well qualified media experts as much as other Arab and foreign media institutions. he will only find failures who were unable to find themselves a place in these satellite channels, said Ne mat. Most importantly, how could a head of a department identify a good writer from a bad if he himself cannot write a competent news item, said Na mat. Even if he can recognise the good from the bad, he will prefer not to recruit professionals out of fear for his office. added the writer,

Al Ra'i's Sultan Hatab said all official media problems can be solved will to make

in

required changes. The country has qualified people. and many others

have been

forced

leave the country lack of incentives. Hundreds of qualified Jordanians have been headhunted by Arab and international satellite stations who provided them the incentives that the government was nnahle to provide, said Hatab. Was it, asked Hatab, the intention of successive governments to weaken the media in order not to be criticised or share authority? The writer called on the prime minister to pursue his efforts in upgrading the local media performance and follow up his decision before it is shelved. He also urged Rawabdeh to protect the official media from the "too many hands." which interfere where they shouldn't. Different parties interfere in everything the official media broadcast starting with songs up to news bulletins, and this is the main reason for the

Al Dustour's Ibrahim Ajlouni called on the government to be selective in recruiting people and not depend on personal preferences. He said the Kingdom has scores of well-qualified media experts but the government needs to provide them with the proper atmosphere and incentives, and security from any harm. The writer expressed hope that Rawabdeh's criticism of the official media would be the first step towards fundamental changes in the media.

media's current failure,

charged Hatab.

The Turkish and Algerian elections

By George S. Hishmeh

WASHINGTON — The disappointment in the results of the national election in Algeria, shared worldwide, lies primarily not only in the fact that it dealt a serious blow to the democracy-aspiring Algerians but it also contributed to the stereotypical image here of the Middle East. In other words, the military reigns supreme in most Arab states. But, strangely, this is not the predominant view of the other noteworthy election that took place this week at the eastern end of the Mediterranean. The significant role of the military in the just-concluded Turkish election was remotely touched upon in the various analyses offered here.

In fact, Mona Yacoubian, a prominent independent consultant who is currently at the State Department, attributed the difference in perception to the belief that Turkey unlike Algeria has done "a much better job" at handling in a constitutional manner the role of the military. This may be the case, but there are many others who were not comfortable with the way the Turkish generals, known for their sympathy toward Israel and cognisant of their partnership with NATO, dealt with the Islamists.

"Elections are not the only measure of a democracy," says Holly Cartner, executive director of the Europe and Central Asia division of Human Rights Watch here. "Some of Turkey's laws seriously infringe upon the right to free expression that is guaranteed under international law and are a sign that democracy and respect for human rights have a long way to go in

Arbitrary and senseless laws are seriously impinging on free expression in Turkey. a study released by Human Rights Watch on April 15 said. Journalists risk fines. imprisonment, or worse if they write about such subjects as the role of Islam in politics and society. Turkey's ethnic Kurdish minority, the conflict in south-eastern Turkey, or the proper role of the military in government and society.

In the days ahead. Algerian Presidentelect Abdelaziz Bouteflika will be needing more than his acknowledged charisma and eloquence, which have served to bring about an air of nostalgia in the country reminding some Algerians of the heady days under Houari Bournedienne when Bouteflika danced his bour upon the world stage as his country's flamboyant foreign

As the other candidates, Bouteflika talked during the campaign about national reconciliation and dialogue. But he will probably need a magician's wand to rein in the jobless Algerian youth, who are said to number 70 per cent of the population, and as he put it. "to definitely turn the sombre pages of our history to work for a new era."

The abrupt decision of the six opposition candidates to pull out of the race on the eve of the election has dealt Bouteflika a hollow victory, especially as suspected he may not be able to carry on without the dictates of the squabbling generals.

The challenge to the regime by the socalled Group of Six, will be tested on April 26, the date they set for nationwide protests. More importantly, their action may decide whether the six opposition

leaders can maintain their coalition after their surprise decision on the eve of the

Bouteflika should not count for long on the significant support of the moderate Islamist groups, who like the anti-establishment leaders can also stand up to the machinations of the army-led regime.

Nevertheless, the nay-saying, if properly channelled, may lend some credence to the authority of this second civilian president since the country won its national independence from the French in 1962; the first was Ahmed Ben Bella who was ousted in 1965. The opposition groups can serve as the "loyal" opposition and mark the beginning of the end of the rule of the generals from behind the scenes. There is no question that the country has had enough bloodshed - 75,000 were killed since 1992 — and is grasping for some fresh air.

Lacking a power base, Bouteflika has limited options by which he can gain legitimacy particularly if the 60 per cent turnout, as claimed by the government, proves fraudulent. His only road to salvation may be in instituting urgent economic reforms forthwith and unloading some of the state enterprises,

In Turkey as in Algeria, the election has not categorically resolved the rifts within the country and has failed to provide the immediate stability that is so urgently needed at the two ends of the Mediterranean.

It may not be surprising if the two countries may once again seek another public referendum before settling on a firmer

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Old rifts reopen in Germany over Kosovo

SHAPED LIKE the hands of a supplicant releading for mercy, the ruins of Dresden's recod for a devastating allied air raid in 1945, stood for decades as a symbol of the senselessness of

> The 18th century baroque masterpiece is being rebuilt -- again to embody a longing for peace and tolerance, as well as the coming together of east and west Germany into a reunited nation after the fall of the Berlin wall.

kerny francon inneral But, as the Frauenkirche takes shape, Germans again find themselves divided over NATO's bombiog against Yugoslavia aimed at forcing President Slobodan Milosevic to end the killing and expulsion of majority Muslim ethnic Albanians from Kosovo.

History has turned full circle now that Germany's leaders have committed forces in the country's first offensive military action since World War II to combat the brand of "ethnic cleansing" perfected by Adolf Hitler's Nazi

and the design of the second s And it is the people who suffered most from defeat in 1945 and the division and Communist repression which followed who most strongly oppose the campaign of aerial bom-bardment less than two hours flight away in Yugoslavia.

The Kosovo war is not only an ethnic, but also a religious conflict. It is wrong to use weapons to fight a religious war," said 59-yearold Rudolf Quaiser, who works for the founda-tion raising fuods to rebuild the Frauenkirche,

By Elif Unal

Reuters

SUNA AND Gulten are both married

women with childreo, former teachers

with the same gentle but confident manner. The suspicion dividing them cuts like a knife through Turkisb soci-

ety. Gulten Celik wears a headscarf, an

elegant, colourful, silk scarf fastened at the chin by a pin to hide ber bair

On the streets of any Western city

this might go unremarked, but in

Turkey the scarf can be a potent state-

meot, not only of Muslim faith but

also of commitmeet to another, alien

"Women to headscarves look to me

ugly and strange, like penguins," says 56-year-old Suna Demirkaya. "If they

doo't like our system they should go to Iran. I'd pay for their ticket." Suna

wears ber scarf draped fashionably

around her neck, her hair is dyed

immodesi and wears a long, loose

coat to envelop her body. Suna choses

Now retired, Stma is alarmed by

what she sees as the inroads of Islam

She cherishes an image of a "mod-

a smart knee-length skirt.

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into everyday life and politics.

Gulten eschews makeup as

ke-up applied with subtle-

and forehead.

Out on the street io front of the church, most locals also oppose NATO's air campaign.

'We're afraid the war might come to us," said Wunhild Seidl, a 55-year-old laboratory worker. 'I watch the news on television and sometimes I can't sleep at night." "I have great doubts over whether bombing Yugoslavia will achieve anything - although I must admit I can't think of a better solution," said Anja Ackermann, a 27-year-old theatre design student pushing her baby in a pram.

An elderly man, a naval veteran of World War II, said io contrast that there was no clear alternative to the air strikes.

But, he added: "the problem can't be solved with bombs alone."

Opinion polls show more than 60 per cent of East Germans oppose the NATO raids, while a similar proportion in the West backs the oper-

"It is a consequence of the long-term indoctrination, not just of East Germans but of Westerners too. The stereotypes are breaking out into the open." Manfred Guellner, managing director of the Forsa Polling Institute, told

Pollsters say support for the air strikes is volatile and fell after NATO admitted its bombs had killed civilian refugees.

But public backing for air strikes rises when television shows pictures of refugees who have fled Kosovo, telling harrowing stories uf Yugoslav atrocities,

But Germans in both the East, where NATO was the enemy for nearly half a century, and the West are united in opposing any escalation of the alliance offensive to include the deploy-

'I would like to know whether the Americans will really put on the pressure for ground troops... The Germans won't go along with that'

ment of German ground troops to expel Yugoslav forces from Kosovo.

"Public opinion is stable: there is a clear rejection of the deployment of ground troops as part of any expansion of NATO's opera-tions," said Richard Hilmer, managing director

of the polling group Infratest Dimap.
That is forcing chancellor Gerhard Scbroeder's government into a political high-wire act by turns assuring NATO allies of Germany's military solidarity while doing all it can to broker a peace deal.

Turkish women torn on headscarf politics

Veteran security expert Egon Bahr, a former foreign policy aide to Social Democrat chancellors Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt, said a crunch for the Bonn coalition could come if the United States does indeed call to send in ground troops.

"I would like to know whether the Americans will really put on the pressure for ground troops," be told Reuters. "The Germans won't go along with that.

"It requires the support of parliament, and there is no party in parliament which would back sending in ground troops." Since the crisis escalated a month ago, Schroeder's personal popularity, and that of his Foreign Minister Josehka Fischer, has soared.

Schroeder, in particular, has managed to cast off the image of a slick but superficial "cash-mere chancellor" and assume a more serious, statesmanlike role, pollsters say.

The picture is more mixed, however, for the two parties they lead. While the electoral research group puts Schroeder's Social Democrats level with the opposition Christian Democrats at 41 per cent, another poll by Infratest Dimap puts the SPD on 35 per cent far behind the CDU's 43 per cent.

Surveys put the Greens on between five and six per cent — barely above the threshold needed to win election to parliament.

That could be bad news for the governing parties if the Kosovo crisis drags on for weeks, or even months, with a series of regional state polls looming during the course of this year. Four of the six state elections are in the east,

in Brandenburg, Thuringia and Saxony whose capital is Dresden - as well as the capital of the newly-proclaimed "Berlin Republic" proclaimed by Schroeder in the renovated Reichstag last Mnnday.

A poor run uf results would dash Schroeder's hupes ul winning back cuntrol of parliament's upper house which he lost following a runt in Hesse earlier this year.

The Greens, which grew out of the cold war peace movement to enter national government for the first time last year, are also at odds over the Kosovo crisis.

Fischer abandoned his strict pacifist stance fullowing the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, in the clusing stages of the Busnian war, and has managed to earry the support of most Greens deputies for Germany's participation in the NATO air strikes.

But several leading Greens — among them juniur environment minister Gila Altmann -bave since called fur an immediate end to the NATO action. The Greens face more wrenching debate in the run-up to a party conference on May 13.

Analysts say they cannot rule out a collapse in Schroeder's six-month-old coalition as a result of the Greens in-fighting.

But, fur now at least, Fischer seems to be

able to appeal over the heads of his party colleagues to command the support of voters. He issued a direct appeal nn Wednesday, warning in a frunt-page newspaper interview of a threat to the cualition.

"He has unbelievable support among Greens voters. That is hugely important for his standing." Hilmer said.

"But there will continue to be conflicts among the Greens - that is the great danger

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'I was a very keen teacher, but I had to leave the school because I was forbidden to wear my headscarf'

em" Turkey leaving behind all symbols of the theocratic Ottoman order abolished 75 years ago by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the secularist founder of the Republic of Turkey. She fears, ke others, the advent of a new order. perbaps eveo a Sharia law regime, that will rob her of Western freedoms and independence.

Gulten, 48, who campaigned for victory for the Islamist Virtue Party at elections last week, seems to her to embody that threat.

For her part, Gulten sees herself as

campaign of persecution that forces her kind from educational and other state bodies. Under the constitution religion and religious symbols are barred from public life. Gulten, now head of the Virtue

victim of a "senseless" secularisi

Women's Branch, was forced to leave teaching during a previous campaign against headscarves.

'I was a very keen teacher, but I had to leave the school because I was forbidden to wear my headscarf... But I have never really stopped working. Along with my husband, I tell people of our holy religion. At the same time, I've learnt Arabic." Gulteo would be bard put to convince secularist authorities that her silk scarf has no

political meaning.

"Why do people fear us so? Have we carried out any terrorist attacks, bave we tried to change the system? If we cover ourselves, the main reason is that the Koran orders that practice and we obey... Of course as women you want to look beautiful and the scarves really suit us.

Suna, sipping a fruit juice, sees no reason to trust Gulten and ber kind. There is too much at stake. She takes solace, bowever, in the vigilance of the secularist army.

The duty of the Turkish armed forces is to protect this republic," she says. "The army is the only one that takes this very, very seriously. I don't see any politicians defending the republic. They're just after votes." Less than two years ago the army used its considerable influence to edge Turkey's first Islamist coverns. edge Turkey's first Islamist government from power.

The Islamist Welfare Party, which had campaigned on promises of a new Islamist economic order and pursued close ties with radical Arab states such as Libya, was later banned and Virtue, biggest grouping in the old parliament, emerged in its place. Prosecutors are pushing to ban

Virtue, which campaigns now as a mass party drawing strong support from the poor, on allegations that it seeks an Islamic state on Turkish soil. Gulten hints at hopes that Virtue leaders would never express publicly; that the 20 per ceot Islamist support at

1995 elections will find its echo in the ranks of the conscript army. The generals might then be forced to review their attitudes to Virtue. With this could come a second taste

of power.
"We assess the military as the home of the Prophet Mohammad," says Gulten. The general staff, however, is vigorous in purging all proselytisers from the barracks and has made it clear it would not brook a virtue gov-

'Women in headscarves look to me ugly and strange, like penguins'

come from "modem" secularist lamitheir spouses.

views,™ says Suna. might have been in another position"

Gulten and Suna acknowledge com-moo ground io their lives.

Both indeed are Muslims, both want a united Turkey free of violence on the streets and in the home. Both were married in religious ceremonies. lies and are strongly influenced by

" My husband and I share political

"If I'd married someone else, I

been quite different." Headscarves chuld explode into a constitutional issue in the new parlia-

says Gulten. "My views might have

ment meets, as Virtue is for the first time returning young women who cover their heads, Virtue, whose sober programme

contrasts sharply with the Islamist rhetoric of old Welfare, is fully aware their arrival to take the parliamentary oath in a headscarf will be seen by many as violating the secularist spirit of the constitution.

Arguments that the scarf is a private, not political matter may cui no ice here.

The truth is, the scarf in Turkey is what the wearer wants it to be. For the few who wear it on the streets of central Istanbul it may be only a convenience or even a fashion accessory. for others a display of piety.

For some, undoubtedly, this piety provides a rare and welcome opportunity for open public defiance of a constitutionally guaranteed secularist order. It is political.

The secularist state obliges in this joust by banning the scarf and its wearer at every turn. Sanction headscarves, runs the argument, and Ataturk's republic may drown in a creeping tide of religious bigotry within a generation.

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54 Pursuit 56 Assn. 57 Tooth: pref. 59 __Lanka 60 Parish clergyman

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28 Ovèrseas 29 Anchor position 30 One-and-only Focal point 36 Knack 38 Rio de la ___ 39 Seek Just right

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98 Consequences 100 Prehistoric period 103 "Peer Gynt" playwright __ Ten Conf. 105 Arranged in rows 107 Paulo, Brazil 109 Cause to stop 113 Bring into harmony
118 1, 2, or 3, etc.
120 __ Jean Baker
121 Traditional stories 122 Clinton Attorney General 123 Covered with e emoky residue

124 Look scornfully 125 Son of Aphrodite 128 Prayer closer 127 Kashmir river 128 Syrian leader 129 Lions' lairs 130 Painful 131 Proficient DOWN Brazilian dance in duple time Irish Rose 3 Van Duyn and Washbourne Outdoes 5 Semi-eternity? Eagle's nest

9 Small vipers 10 Appraisers 11 Interjection of ragret 12 Taylor and Adores

13 Affirmative vote 14 Big redwood 15 Not proper Cartoon light builb 17 Connection

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44 San __, CA 45 Chemical 46 Gumshoes 47 Lock in the dials 48 North of Paris? 53 Observer

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55 One of the archangels 58 Wink of an eye 60 U.S. Army rank 62 Bitterly pungent 63 Swiss dog 65 Ocean passage:

67 Business agent 69 Spanish couple? 71 Stacy of the LPGA 73 Ratchet latches 74 Native Alaskan 75 "Last __ in Paris" 76 John Dickson or

78 "The Right Stuff" writer 80 Oz dog 81 Chief Norse god 82 Yellow and Black 85 Female Benedict Arnold 87 Like detachable

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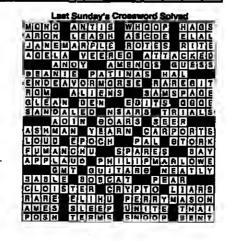
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NOTICE OF SALE

Period of sale:

Inspection and bidding should be from: Monday 26th until Thursday 29th April, 1999 From 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. SIEMENS AG - JORDAN BRANCH'S

Location: warehouse in Yadoudah area

Item to be sold: SKODA COMBI GLX station wagon vehicle 1300cc engine with air-condition, AM/FM radio cassette and central

lock. Model 1997

KIA CONCORD GTX 2000cc engine with power steering, power windows, air-condition,

central lock and power antenna. Model 1994.

HYUNDAI VAN 2500cc engine, 6 seater, with AM/FM radio cassette. Model 1997

KIA SEPHIA SLX 1500cc engina with air-condition, AM/FM radio. Model 1996

THREE STAR PICK UP 3300cc engine, five-speed. Overall dimension: L5280mm W2040 H2100, wheelbase 2800mm. Cargo deck inside: L3995mm W1860 H400.

Model SXZ10413. Year of make 1996 Quantity: Three pick ups

Conditions of sale: Sale is conducted by sealed bid.

All property is sold on as-is, where is, non-returnable basis for cash payment withoul refund or warranty.

Bid forms will be available at location of sale.

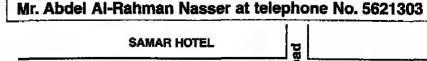
All items will be available for inspection at location of sale. Sale will be to the highest bid and in JD cash only. A refundable

deposit of 10% of the lotal bid is required at time of bid in cash JD only. All bids must be deposited in lock box by 12:00 p.m. Thursday 29th April, 1999.

All property must be paid for and removed by successful bidder Monday 3rd May, 1999.

If not removed by successful bidder on May 3rd, 1999 a storage fee of JD50.000 per day for each item will be imposed.

For further Information please contact



Ma'daba Street SIEMENS Al Yadouda Customs Bonded STORE

Airport

To Ma'daba

World Bank says poor still getting poorer

WASHINGTON (R) -The world's poorest are getting poorer, even as the glohal economy begins to shake off the effects of the Asian financial crisis, the World Bank said on Thurs-

World Bank President James Wolfensohn told a news conference that the number living below the poverty line of \$1 per day has increased in real terms because developing country economic growth has fallen below rates of population

"We are down to about 1.5 per cent (output) growth in our range of countries this year. dnwn from 4.7 per cent growth two years Wolfensohn said. "And 1.5 per cent growth in domestic product, when you have 3-4 per cent growth in popula-

tion, has an ohvious impact on per capita income." Wolfensohn said weak commodity prices, which many poor countries rely on for income, have made

inatters worse. "Although the crisis, in hroad economic terms, looks as though it is turning around next year, you have to say that until we see a pick-up of commodity prices ... we still have a real development issue prob-

lem." he said. The World Bank has already approved tens of billions of dullars in loans to help countries in Asia and elsewhere recover from the crisis that started in Thailand in July 1997 and spread rapidly around the slow the process by years world.

At the same time, it is attempting to ease the debt hurden for the world's most heavily indehted countries and ensure that the crisis does not make countries reverse progress on social issues like health care and education

Wolfensohn said the World Bank had already committed \$2 billion to the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative, which rewards debtor states with strong economic reform programmes hy forgiving up to 80 per cent of their deht.

But expanding the programme would more than double the costs, be added. "With the new plans (the World Bank's commitment) could reach \$4.5 hillion." he said. "I don't know where we can find (the

additinnal money) unless we get belp from share-holders," Wolfensohn told the press conference. He rejected criticism that the programme offered countries too little debt relief. "I actually think HIPC is a triumph." the

World Bank chief stressed. Critics have called the HIPC plan "too little, too late," and a joint report from the bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) admits that the initiative may not reduce debt payments significantly.

Charities such as Oxfam say tough IMF criteria for qualifying for the plan exclude many countries and for others.

Alternative plans put forward hy the group of seven (G-7) industrialised nations have also come under fire. The debt issue will be discussed next week at the IMF/World Bank meetings in Washington and at the G-7's June summit in

Cologne. Republican James Leach, chairman of the powerful House Banking Committee, told a news conference that excessive debt burdens rohbed poor countries' citizens of the right to equal access to education and health care.

"When you have societies where over half of government revenues go to debt payment, and in some cases more than the national income, you have countries where there is virtually no chance of social mobility," he said.

Leach said he bad proposed a plan going further than deht relief legislation from the Clinton administration which would cost every American \$2.50 a year for the next three years, a small price to pay reduce

inequality." he said. The world's 40 most indebted countries owe about \$200 hillion. Meanwhile, officials at

international lending agencies said on Friday that their flagship deht relief programme to help the world's most deht-ridden countries has failed to live up to expectations and needs much work.

The IMF and World Bank were working to strengthen the heavily indebted poor countries initiative and fend off criticism, said Tony Boote, in charge of the initiative at the IMF.

"The programme in many respects has been quite successful." Boote said. "However, there has been a very effective campaign... which has raised expectations in this area, and against raised expectations we have failed to deliver, in a sense."
The HIPC programme

initially promised debt relief to 23 countries, with proposals to broaden it to 41 countries with total debt of \$200 hillion. It rewards debtor states who adhere to strong IMF economic reform programmes by forgiving up to 80 per cent of their debt.

But just two countries, Bolivia and Uganda, have received funds from the plan while only five more have qualified for dehtrelief packages.

A report by the IMF and World Bank released this week said that the initiative may not reduce deht payments significantly.

Critics of the plan have said the tough criteria exclude many countries, slow the process for years for others and fail to ensure debt relief is used to fund increased spending on educatioo and other muchneeded social programmes.

"That is why we are trying to strengthen the initiative now and that is why the

international community is trying to work a more effective programme out," Boote said.

Boote and Axel Trotsenburg, the World Bank's HIPC manager, said discussions centred on relaxing tough deht-to-export ratios which debtor countries must meet, speeding up relief and making the process more effective in reducing poverty.

Another proposal would make it easier for countries who have suffered from natural disasters to secure speedy entry into the programme.

Relaxing the qualifying criteria and speeding up the process could double the \$12.5 hillion expected cost of the programme - a topic which will be discussed among major credi-tors, many of wbom have proposed alternatives to HIPC.

"There will have to be some hard talking among the major financial creditors about how this might be done," Boote said.

Wolfensohn said Thursday the new proposals could increase costs to the bank to \$4.5 hillion from \$2.5 billion. Many IMF members want the fund to use the proceeds from gold sales to fund its share of the costs, although there has been no agreement on the time scale or the volume of sales.

"There appears to be a move towards an international consensus towards

Syrian exports slide further in 1998

DAMASCUS (AFP) - for the drop in grain Syrian exports continued their downward trend in 1998, falling 30 per cent from 1997 levels, according to statistics published on Thurs-

day. Exports came to \$2.2 billion last year, mainly because of the fall in the prices of oil and cotton. the government newspaper Tishrin said.

However.

Exchange Rates

exports, it said. Oil, cotton and wheat account for 81 per cent

of Syria's exports. "It seems that exports are a language unknown to us. The proof is not only in the modest level of exports but also in their decline," the paper

Despite the overall fall, exports in the industrial and agriculwinter tural sectors actually drought was to blame

Thursday, 22 -04-99

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1.8777

said.

0 1888

increased last year. Some \$126.4 million in industrial goods were

sent abroad in 1998, an increase of 66 per cent over the previous year. while exports of agricultural products rose 21 per cent to \$1.04 mil-

Syrian exports have been on the wane for the past nine years because of a halt in sales to former socialist countries.

2.3218

World 1998 export growth slumps amid Asia's economic crisis — WTO

GENEVA (AFP) — The growth in world exports nlummetted three-fold to 3.5 per cent in 1998 due mainly to the economic crisis in Asia. the World Trade Organisation (WTO) said on

The WTO warned that for export volume growth this year to match even that lower level, trade would have to pick up in the remaining months ahead.

A quicker-than-expected slowing of U.S. or western European economic growth. or a weaker recovery in Asia "would clearly imply growth below 3.5 per cent in 1999," said a WTO report on trade developments.

Nevertheless, the report

South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines - most hrutally hit hy the financial squeeze that broke in 1997.

"A moderate recovery (in Asia) is the most likely scenario for 1999," the WTO

On the negative side, economic difficulties in Brazil and Russia could cast a shadow on their neighbours with whom they have extensive trade ties, the report noted.

Also the impact of steep oil and commodity price falls last year on commodity exporting countries would become fully apparent only in 1999.

Rising oil prices, follow-

the increases prove durable, the report said.

Last year's performance looks sickly beside the 10.5 per cent growth of global exports in 1997 and an average growth of six per cent between 1990 to 1995.

Trade expansion still beat world gross domestic product (GDP) growth of two per cent last year hut by a mucb smaller margin than in previous years, the authors said. The trade picture was

gloomy in value terms also, as exports last year of \$6.5 trillion were two per cent lower than the figure the previous year.

Exports of services, at \$1.3 trillion, posted their first annual decline since statisties were first compiled in the mid 1980s, the report

Peanuts

While all major regions cent of imports and onesuffered a marked slowdown in trade growth, the higgest paralysis in import terms was in Asia.

Japan's serious downturn helped to hammer Asian imports which fell 8.5 per cent in total although the rates in East Asia ranged from a 34 per cent drop in South Korea to a 26 per cent decline in Malaysia.

Only South Asian countries such as India and Sri Lanka saw imports rise.

Trade did pick up in most Asian countries in the last quarter of 1998, partly dne to the strengthening of the yen and other Asian currencies against the dollar, the WTO noted.

The United States remains the world biggest trader, absorbing around 15 per eighth of exports. The booming U.S. economy sucked in 10.5 per cent more in imports in 1998 than the previous year, leading to a \$253 billion trade deficit.

The report highlights the large commodity price drops last year which pushed the share of primary products in world exports below 20 per cent in current price terms for the first time since World War II.

The price falls were particularly harmful for Middle Eastern countries and poor African nations, many of whom depend on agricultural exports for a large sbare of their export earnings.

NEW YORK

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Prices of manufactured exports and services also fell last year, hut hy less than those of commodities.

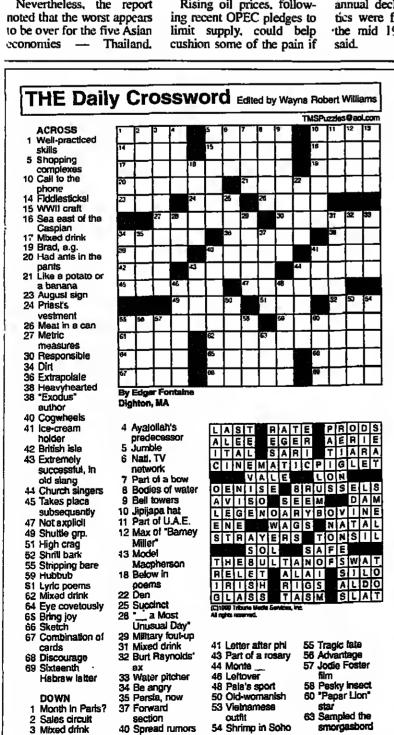
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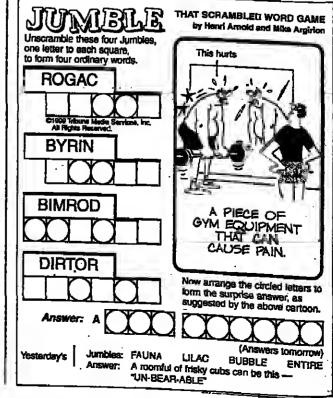
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enough, you'll be on the downhill side of the ride. SAGTTTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It won't be hard to have a rollicking good time today. In fact, it'll be hard not to. Just make sure you've taken all the safety precautions. If you're riding a bike, wear a helmet. If you're on a boat, wear a lifejacket. The stakes are pretty high, so you can't afford to take any chances. This is not a good day to go on the high wire without a safety net. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you're buying something big, take care. Read all the fine print and get an expert to review it, too. Once the serious stuff is handled, conditions look good for travel, its probably been a while since you

went somewhere just for the fun of it. Well, you definitely have permission to do that now. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You may feel like your freedom has been restricted. You have to take everybody else into consideration, and that slows things down considerably. Try not to get frustrated. Its going to work out for the best, but there are a lot of different people to consult and factors to consider. Its wiser to move slowly and do it right the first time. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You and your partner need to have a conversation today about practical matters. Discuss your plans for the future. What would you like to build? Where do you want to go? What will your life like in 20 years? If you don't already have a partner, getting clear on these issues will sure belp you know which one to choose.

Birthstone of April: Diamond - Amethyst

Government panel to meet with Fastlink team to consider proper pricing structure

By Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN - A newlyformed government panel will meet with Fastlink representatives in the next several weeks to negotiate a reduction of tariffs levelled on mobile ealls, a senior official said on Friday.

"We are looking into a proper prieing structure," said the official, referring to charges levied by the gov-

A.S.E TRADE

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INDUSTRY INDEX

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Company

emment on Fastlink, "JTC (Jordan Telecommunications Corporation) mobile phone service cannot operate at a different eost level than Fastlink."

The state-owned JTC has plans to launeh the second Global Systems fur Mobile (GSM) by the end of this

"The direction is to reduce tariffs in urder to allow Fasilink to charge the

Price ·

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0.180 - 5 1.140 + 0 0.250 + 4 1.010 + 5 0.490 - 2

PORT = -1.09%

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PARALLEL

Thursday,22-04-99

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INSURANCE

SERVICES

NDUSTRY

eustomer lower prices," he million in total guaranteed ment violated its agreement added. Jordan Mobile Telephone

Service (Fastlink), the country's sole mobile service provider, has insisted that the second operator be subjected to similar eondi-

During the last year, the two sides have bad on-andoff discussions on a possible reduction in interconnect fees, 60 fils at peak time and 40 fils off peak, and an increase in frequeney allocations. These rates are considered among the highest in the world.

cent revenue sharing agreement with the government. When Fastlink won the tender in 1994, it paid JD7 million for the licence. JD14.8 million to scrap the

Fastlink also has a 20 per

JD54 million in investment over a three-year period. Fastlink, which has 75,000 subscribers, had filed a breach of contract now defunct car telephone ment in December of 1997. system and undertook to pay an additional JD27.4

period.

payment to the government with the firm when it deeidover a four-year operational ed to grant a second licence to the JTC without an upon

In February, five interna-

tional companies submitted

bids to supply and set up the second mobile phone net-

work in the country. The

bids are still in the technical

evaluation stage. After that,

they will be financially eval-

uated. Telecommunications

Minister Jamal Saraireh

said at a press conference

last week that be expects the

JTC, the operator, tu be

ready to offer the mobile

phone service by the end of

this year and that the GSM

division would require

Fastlink said the govern-

tender process. But after one year of deliberations the Higher Court of Justice decided it had no jurisdiction to rule un the case.

Yusuf Mansur, the newlyappointed head of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission who replaced Yusuf Abu Jamous, will head the panel which includes the finance ministry's secretary general, the director of the Investment Promotion Corporation, the JTC's vice president uf financial affairs and Afram Jamil and Mohammed Khasawneh as two consultants from the Ministry of Postand Telecommunica-

Prices of shares improve at ASE

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — The Amman Stock Exchange's (ASE's) share prices recorded a tangible increase during last week activities following the improvement in the Arab Bank's share price, the bourse's leading blue-chip, brokers said Friday.

The ASE's weekly bulletin showed the Arab Bank share price rising to JD207 in the past week eompared to JD200.5 in the previous week.

"It is a well-known fact that if the Arab Bank's share price increases it will reflect positively on the market and that is exactly what happened last week," a broker, who asked not to be named,

"The bank's share price was attractive to investors and that lured them to buy more shares resulting in the improvement of its price in general," another, broker said. The bulletin indicated

that general price index closed at 174.23 points eompared to 172.5 points a week ago, a rise of 1.73 points. The weekly turnover

amounted to JD10.3 million eompared to JD3.7 million in the previous

By recording JD6.3 million of trading, the Jordan Cement Faetories Company ranked first among the shares of 66 firms that were traded in the past week.

On Wednesday, foreign investors sold 1.5 million shares of the eement eompany in a deal, which

amounted to JD6.2 mil-

The deal fullowed the eompany's general assembly meeting, where the firm's 1996 report indieated that its net profit declined to JD7.9 milliun, or 25.7 per cent down compared to 1997 figures. The Jordan Petroleum

Refinery Company ranked second in this sector with a turnover amounting to JD408,364. The industrial sector's total turnover amounted to

JD7.9 million followed by the banking sector, JD1.6 million, and the services sector with JD 813,409. The Arab Bank, the Kingdom's largest finan-

JD971,416 during last week trading. The banking sector price index closed at 269.3 points compared to 267.11

cial institution, won

points a week ago. Shares of 66 firms were traded on the floor in the past week, where shares of 24 firms recorded increase in their prices, 29 registered decrease and 13 firms witnessed no changes in their prices.

The parallel market's turnover amounted to JD886,276, where trading foeused on Zara for Investments and Mideast Pharmaeeutieals, weekly bulletin showed.

Iran eyes bonds to fund petrochemicals

TEHRAN (R) - Iran's top petrochemicals official has said the country would tap international bond markets to help finance petrochemical projects, which would require \$7.2 billion in investments.

"We will look to the bond market as une way of financing petrochemical projects." Deputy Oil Mubammad Reza Nematzadeh told Reuters in an interview.

Nematzadeh, who also National heads the Company Petrochemical (NPC), said the firm would also turn to joint ventures and others schemes tu fund the projects, part of Iran's amhition to triple its annual petrochemical output to 30 million tonnes in 25 years with a \$24 billion develupment programme.

Nematzadeh, one of several Iranian officials who called on international companies to invest in the counsaid no decision had been made yet on how much financing Iran would seek from bond markers.

"We are still studying the

situation. We expect to make a decision in six months. Bonds will be one way we will seek financing. We also wanı joini ventures," he said. "We expect to get the funding (for the projects) in three years," Nematzadeh



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Beat A review of news from the Arabic Press

Jordan Dead Sea Industries Company posts a JD138,800 net profit in 1998

** THE JORDAN Dead Sea Industries Company, which has many stakes in other mineral firms in the Kingdom, posted a JD174,500 operational loss last year as production costs totalled JD2.9 million while sales amounted to JD2.8 million. The loss was recorded despite a 128 per eent increase in sales and a 35 per cent rise in costs.

When taking into eonsideration other expenditures and other income which totalled JD3.2 million and JD2.8 million respectively, the company's net loss reached JD605.400. But when the minority interest share of the net loss was taken into account, the net result of the company at the end of 1998 was a JD 138,800 net profit.

The financial statement of the company showed total assets at JD52.4 million, about 40 per cent higher than the JD37.5 million registered at the end of 1997. Most of the increase was in inventory. receivables and cash at banks. Total liabilities amounted to JD22.3 million at the end of last year compared to JD18 million at the end of 1997. The nearly 24 per cent increase was mainly in bank credits, long-term payables and minority interests and rights. The shareholders equity was higher by 55 per cent at JD30.1 million (JD19.4 million in 1997) as a result of a rise in

the paid-up capital. The company was a holding firm until Nov. 21, 1998 when share-

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1999

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You could pay out quite a bit

of money today without realisting what you're doing. Don't

spontaneously buy whatever you want, or fall under the spell of

a smooth-talking salesperson. You may not be the best judge of

what's argood deal; so don't go shopping in an unfamiliar mar-ket inday ___not all by yourself_anyway.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You're likely to clash with at

least one other person today, in a friendly way, hopefully. You

have strong opinions, but so does the other person. A compro-

mise is possible, especially if you're working on a project

together. Its certainly advisable, too. The final outcome looks

positive, but it may take a mediator to get you both to agree.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your closest friends and neigh-

bours are your greatest asset now. If you're in a situation that

you don't quite understand, go to them for advice. Could be

something that you've just never had to deal with before. It

looks like an older woman who lives nearby can explain the

whole thing in a minute and put your mind to rest. Confide what

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Money is on your mind again

today, and possibly your project is buying or selling. If you're

like most Cancer people, you're a natural businessperson.

You're a wheeler-dealer extraordinaire, and you always play to

win. That's why your family is so well provided for. You watch

for the best deals, and when you spot one, you grab it. Today,

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You don't have everyone's

approval yet. Well, don't give up. All you need to do to cinch

the argument is to prove that your way is going to be cost-effec-

tive. That's what the others are really worried about. Will they

be able to afford this fabulous scheme of yours? If you can con-

vince them they II make money on the deal, you've got it made.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Today you're being

pushed to put up or shut up. You're usually a meek, quiet per-

son in many ways. You don't generally brag a lot, but you might

have been talking up your dreams, letting other people know what you'd like to make happen. And now, they're saying "OK, well, go ahead and do it." So, it looks like you're going to have

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Today could be disappointing at first. It looks like something you want for your home won't be affordable. This might apply to several things you

wanted for your home, but don't despair. Let this situation motivate you, instead. There might be a way you can make what you want, and have it turn out even better. Give it some thought

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take care of business

this morning. There are still a few decisions to be made, and a few

things that have to be put in place before you can fully relax. You'll

know when that happens, because it will feel like a weight has been

hified. All of a sudden, things will start getting easy, and sure

you're worried about to a friend.

make that your objective.

holders voted to transform it into a limited public shareholding company during an extraordinary general assembly meeting. "By ehanging the legal form, the company became able to invest 40 per cent in the capital of the Jordan Bromine Company which will be producing bromine and its by-products as well as chlorine and potassium hydroxide," Board Chairman Awni Al Masri told the shareholders.

Al Masri said the company has achieved great progress in establishing industrial companies to extract and utilise Dead Sea minerals. He indicated that the Jordan Dead Sea Industries Company (JODICO) has a total equity of JD41 million in the eapital of various firms in which the expected investments of these projects amount to JD300 million.

The eompany's JD41 million of equity in other firms represents 68 per cent of JODICO's capital, Masri said noting that the subsidiaries and affiliated firms are the Jordan Safi Salt Company, the Jordan Magnesia Company and the Jordan Bromine Company.

"Efforts continue to conduct the necessary studies to specify the projects that have technical feasi-bility in order to establish companies for carrying out other sehemes," Masri concluded (Al Dustour + Al Arab Al Yawm + Al

> MANAMA (AFP) - As many as 12 Bahraini firms are to undertake a trade mission to Iraq in May to tout for business after more than eight years of sanctions, a newspaper said on

> the Gulf emtrate's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was due to leave on May 25 and focus on the food, medical equipment and pharmaceutical sectors, the Gulf Daily News said.

The contracts would come under the U.N. oilfor-food programme that allows Baghdad to sell limited quantities of erude in return for food, medicine and other essential goods.

Baghdad has a charge d'affaires in Manama, although the Bahraini embassy in Iraq has been elosed since the 1991 Gulf War which evicted Iraq from Kuwait.

firms to kick-start trade with Iraq

i nursday. The visit, organised by

Bahraini

Lazio and Mallorca to bring down curtain on Cup Winners Cup

PARIS (AFP) - The 39th - and last - Cup Winners Cup final will see Italian title-chasers Lazio take on Euro novices Real Mallorca after the Spaniards ended Chelsea's dream of becoming the only club ever to retain the trophy.

Chelsea, who ousted Germany's Stuttgart in last season's final, had happy memories of an earlier Spanish encounter having beaten Real Madrid to lift the trophy for the first time back in 1971.

But they had no answer to the athleticism and miserly defending of Mallorca, who having achieved a fine 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge a fortnight ago, drew first blood on 15 minutes with a fine header by Argentine striker Leonardo Biagini following fine work by Jovan Stankovic.

The goal was enough to secured a deserved 2-1 win on aggregate.

Despite their incomparably greater ricbes, Chelsea were decidedly playing second fiddle and they paid for their lethargy, amply illustrated by Dennis Wise's misdirected header right at the death which would have forced extra-time.

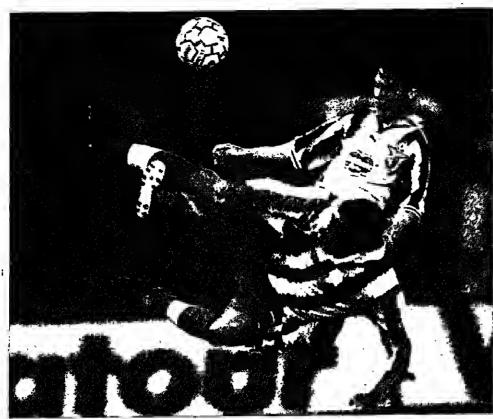
Lazio meanwhile ground out a dour goalless draw with Russia's Lokomotiv Moscow to advance on the away goals rule courtesy of the I-I draw they secured in the away leg.

The Italians were soundly beaten by Inter Milan in last year's UEFA Cup final and now will hope to go one better by lifting their first ever European trophy.

Faced by a vociferous crowd in Palma. Chelsea had tried a little kidology before the game with Mallorea by demanding the Spanish cut their favoured long grass which suits their

But it was the English Premiership side which found itself cut down to size as Mallorca, playing in their first ever European campaign, looked far more the Euro aristocrats than their millionaire opponents at the modest Luis Sitjar Stadium which the Spaniards will leave at the end of the sea-

Chelsea player-boss Gianluca Vialli's decision to leave himself out of the starting line-up for only the second time in Europe this season backfired as fellow Italian Gianfranco Zola and Norwegian Tore Andre Flo



Chelsea's Uruguayan Gustavo Poyet (R) and Argentinian Leo Biagini (L) who scored Real Mallorca's goal, fall down during their second leg Cup Winners' Cup semi final match at Luis Sitjar stadium. Mallorca reached the final against Lazio Rome after winning today 1-0 (AFP photo)



Lazio Rome's Czech player Pavel Nevdev (R) fights for the ball with Lokomotiv Moscow's player Sherevchenko (L) during their second round Cup Winners' Cup semi-final match in Rome (AFP photo)

among the substitutes as his could not raise the required Roberto Di Matteo - also side tried in vain to break down an armour-plated Spanish defence, the most miserly in the Spanish first

The tie was nicely poised following the 1-1 draw in the first leg at Stamford Bridge two weeks ago.

Immediately Biagini's goal. Chelsea almost got back on terms with Graeme Le Saux crossing from the left and Uruguayan striker Gustavo Poyet turning his marker to hook narrowly over the bar.

Flo and Zola then both

In fact Vialli was not even target but Chelsea somehow tained pressure.

They forced the first corner after only four minutes when Zola's swirling cross glanced off the head of defender Marcelino but when the flag kick came over Dennis Wise cbip shot was comfortably handled

by goalkeeper Carlos Roa. Roa in particular should savour the final against Lazio as he belongs to a religious sect which believes that the world will end in 2001. For the Cup Winners Cup. the end is

sent efforts narrowly off already nigh.

Another Italian Londoners.

Chelsea had dreamed of joining Manchester United as a second English team to reach a major European final this season — a feat matched by Everton and Liverpool in 1985.

Lazio will have to show more of the killer instinct which has propelled them 10 the top of the Serie A if they are to see off Mallorca in the May 19 in final than they displayed on Tuesday Rome

A win in the final in Birmingham on May 19 will see the Italians take their country's tally of wins in the competition to seven

- level with Spain, four of

whose wins were achieved

by Barcelona. Lazio huffed and puffed against Lokomotiv and were grateful in the end for their away goal in Moscow after missing a series of chances — mainly through Italy's World Cup striker

Christian Vieri. The home fans showed their disapproval by loudly

whistling their team. Vieri signalled his presence after barely two minutes, latching onto a through pass from Roberto Mancini and powering in a shot which goalkeeper Ruslan Nigmatullin will-ingly turned round for a

A better chance fell four minutes later to the visitors' Dmitri Bouylkin when he waltzed pass two Lazio defenders and rifled a low shot past Luca Marchegiani which flashed just wide of the far post.

And it proved to be the first of several incursions by the skilful ball-playing Russians, who were able to cut swathes through the Lazio defence with a combination of elegant drib-bling and deft one-touch football.

Lazio finally found their usual rhythm midway through the half and Vien. who had just been denied a far-post header, should have scored in the 27th minute

Mancini sent in a powerful cross. Vien got his boot in before his marker's but could only guide the bali over the bar from pointblank range with the goalkeeper hupelessly beaten.

Yugoslav Sinisa Mibajlovie came even closer two minutes later, managing the rare feat of crashing the ball against the crossbar with an viciously inswinging comer kick. which Fernando Couto then

failed to prod home. Vieri should have been clean through in the 37th minute, but was badly let down by his first touch of Mancini's defence-splitting

And Lokotmotiv striker Zaza Dzhanashia could have done better with a free shot from 10 metres which he hooked across the face of the goal, as the lack of finishing marked both sides' performances.

Tennis in billion dollar marketing deal

MONTE CARLO (AFP) - The ATP Tour wrapped up nine months of negotiations and planning Friday, signing an \$1.2 billion marketing agreement Friday for its elite sphere of tournaments which will last for a decade.

The Tour granted the Swiss-based sports marketing firm ISL Worldwide an exclusive marketing, broadcast and licencing rights deal for the Super 9 series plus the Tour's annual November World Championships.

The signing ceremony was held at the Monte Carlo Country club as the Super 9 Monte Carlo Open reached the quarter-

final stage.

ISL will sell television rights for the 10

events plus handle television marketing for all of the 50 plus other events on the Tour. The agreement, first proposed last summer during Wimbledon, takes effect on Jan. 1, when the entire structure of men's tennis will change. From that date, computer rankings will be a straight-sum numbers game starting in January and ending in November, replacing the current rolling, 52-week ranking period.

The tournament calendar will also be streamlined and revised and all eligible players will be required to compete -unless injured - in the four Grand Slams plus the Super 9s.

Blatter dashes Nigeria's World Cup 2006 hopes

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigera's hopes of hosting the 2006 World Cup were seriously undermined by FIFA President Serp Blatter here on Friday.

Biamer, here to watch the World Youth championship tinal on Saturday, said the African state snil had a long way to go before it would be ready to host the world's biggest sporting event. FIFA officials said Blaner.

who has regularly expressed support for an African country hosting the 2006 event. accepted that Nigeria had still a long way to go in building the hotels and setting up transport facilities needed for the senior event.

'The World Youth Championship has worked. but there is a quantum leap between that and the World Cup," said a senior FIFA official Friday.

The official cited the shortage of hotel beds, poor communications facilities and transport problems in Nigeria

With the final decision over who hosts the 2006 World Cup being made early next year. Nigeria has little time to get things sorted out.

England, Germany, Brazil, Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Morocco and Egypt are all bidding for the 2006 World Cup.

But Blatter was full of praise for Nigeria's handling of the Youth championship.

"We did it. I can say that we have had a successful championship," said the FIFA president.

The three week youth tournament, staged for the first time in sub-saharan Africa, wraps up Saturday with Japan playing Spain in the final, while Mali takes on Uruguay for the third

Many critics had worried that Nigeria would not be up to hosting teams from 24 countries and staging 52 matches.

fears Those unfounded, Blatter said. He said he was happy there were no incidents.

'The championship will serve a useful lesson for Nigeria in the next step for the Nations Cup in 2000," he said, refering to Nigeria's co-hosting of the African Nations Cup next year.

Top spot beckons for Arsenal

LONDON (AFP) - Champions Arsenal will take over at the top of the English Pemiership for the first time this season if they beat Middlesbrough at the Riverside Stadium on

Their lead may last less than 24 hours if Manchester United win at fourth-placed Leeds United on Sunday morning, but that may be a tall order for Alex Ferguson's

European Cup heroes. Any thoughts that Arsenal might be suffering from blurred vision after their FA Cup semi-final deteat by United were dispelled by the 5-1 demolition of Wimbledon

by Arsene Wenger's side. Character is an integral part of the Highbury make-up and Middlesbrough, unbeaten in seven but with only pride to play for, are likely to feel the full force of Arsenal's determination to keep one of the trophies they wen last season. Manager Arsene Wenger must decide whether to start with Nigerian Nwankwo Kanu, as he did so successfully

Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp should overcome a slight groin strain, while compatnot Marc Overmars is still troubled by blivtered feet.

against Wimbledon, or out-of-sorts Frenchman Nicolas

French midfielder Patrick Voira is happy for the spealight to be on United, who go into the weekend a point ahead with six games left to Arsenal's five

"We've just got the Premiership to play for now," he said. "We've started to put the pressure on them and we'll see

If Arvenal can afford to be one-eyed in pursuing their only remaining route to silverware, United manager Alex Ferguson can afford no such luxury, and he's not com-

The treble is very much on after the superb 3.2 win at Inventus at Wednesday which earned them a place in the European Cup final, their first since 1968.

Ferguson's immortality will be confirmed if his side wins

the Premiership and FA Cup as well. The Scot would porbably have wished for an caster fixture with which to ease back down to earth than a Lancashire-Yorkshire War of the Roses against Leeds United at Elland Road.

Police concerns surrounding a traditionally volatile fixture mean the game has a morning kick-off but that is unlikely to temper the passions of Leeds fans who would like nothing more than to upset United's triple-edged trophy assault.

Dutch colossus Jaap Stam reckons the Juventus win showed nothing is beyond the current United side, who are unbeaten in 25 games.

"This team has a lot of self-belief and we really showed that when we were 2-0 down after 10 minutes," he said. "I have never played in a team with such self-belief."

Stam, hower, picked up an Achilles injury in Turin and is unlikely to feature at Elland Road, opening the way for new England recruit Wes Brown to step in. Ferguson is hopeful winger Ryan Giggs can shrug off the

ankle knock which kept him out of the Juventus match but his only other problem is likely to be a selection headache with strikers Andy Cole, Dwight Yorke, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Teddy Sheringham in such electric form.

Chelsea's nitle challenge has been rocked by two successive draws, the most recent being Sunday's loss of a twogoal lead to draw 2-2 at home to Leciester. And Gianluca Vialli's side were knocked out of the

European Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday by Spanish outfit Real Mallorca, hence the Sunday afternoon kick-off against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough. Wednesday aren't out of the relegation woods quite yet

but anything other than victory for Chelsea, who are three points behind United having played a game more, will surely extinguish their title hopes once and for all. At the bottom Nottingham Forest (2) points will finally

be relegated if they don't beat Aston Villa at Villa Park, one of manager Ron Atkinson's former clubs. Even then, if Blackburn (32) beat visuing Liverpool or

Charlton (32) win at relegation rivals Everion (37), they will still go down.

Second-bottom Southampton (31) travel to Derby

No 4th Champions' League spot for England

LONDON (AFP) — European body UEFA on Friday officially ruled out English clubs' hopes of a fourth place in next season's Champions' League. There bad been reports that a

extra spot would be granted if Manchester United were to win this year's final against Bayern Munich. But UEFA said that would only

happen if Alex Ferguson's team finish outside the Premiership's top three, and that is highly improbable. A statement from European foot-

ball's governing body said: "The number of participating clubs from England depends upon Manchester United's final position in the Premier League.

"If Manchester United win the Champions' League final and also finish in first, second or third place in the Premier League, then three clubs from England would participate in the competition.

"The League champions and runners-up would enter the first group stage directly and the thirdplaced team would play in the third qualifying round.
"However, if Manchester United

win the final, but were to finish below third place in the Premier League, then four English clubs would qualify automatically in next season's Champions' League.

"Manchester United would qualify automatically as Champions' League title-holders, and would be joined by the teams which finish in first, second and third place in the Premier League."

That would require a truly remarkable slump by Alex Ferguson's men in their last six matches as they are currently eight points clear of fourth-placed Leeds and also have a game in

A meeting later on Friday will clarify how many tickets will be made available to United supporters for the final at the massive Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona.

United fans were outraged by initial reports that they were only likely to receive 25,000 seats for their team's first European Cup final in 31 years.

But the UEFA spokesman said. no decision has been made and explained: "There is a meeting in Barcelona today, and we won't know until the end of the afternoon."

Ahlstrom had previously said: "The priority will be to benefit the two teams that have qualified for a match in a stadium which will have a capacity of 98,000 for this

But, while that offers hope to United supporters, there is less joy

from UEFA on the chances of overturning suspensions that will see Roy Keane and Paul Scholes miss the May 26 final.

Both players will be banned from the clash after picking up a second booking in the semi-final second-leg win over Juventus, and the media office spokesman said there was "no chance" of any change to that ruling.

This was backed up by UEFA president Lennart Johansson, who said: "Although the English public might want them to play it would not be fair on the German team. and the bookings must stand."



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Philadelphia 76er Eric Snow puts up a shot over Detroit Piston Grant Hill as Jerry Michigan (AFP photo) Stackhouse (L) and Joe Dumars watch in the first half of their game in Auhurn Hills,

Heat overcome horrendous first half to beat Magic

ORLANDO (R) — The Miami Heat overcame the worst first half in franchise history to take over first place in the Eastern Conference with a 75-70 victory over the Orlando Magic on Thursday.

The Heat used a huge 33-13 third quarter to recover from their horrendous start in the crucial matchup of the top two teams in the

Alonzo Mourning scored 18 points and pulled down rebounds and Jamal Mashburn added 13 and 12 for the heat, who were held to an embarrassing franchise-low eight points in the first quarter and 23 by intermission.

"We were looking like 1920 the bad news bears out there," said Heat forward

Miami extended the lead to 68-55 in the fourth quarter and withstood an Orlando rally that reduced the margin to 73-70 with less than a minute to play. Orlando had a chance to tie in the closing seconds but Darrell Armstrong's 3point attempt was off the

The Heat, who have won

four in a row and 10 of their last 12 games. grabbed a one-game lead over second-place Orlando in the Atlantic Division and a 1-T/2-game edge over Indiana for the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

"We've got eight more games left," said Heat coach Pat Riley. "We've got too many games left to think we accomplished anything." Nick Anderson scored 14 points and Penny Hardaway added 13 for Orlando, loser of five of its last six.

At Detroit, Allen Iverson scored 28 points and the 76ers made 11-of-12 free throws over the final 74 seconds as Philadelphia beat the Pistons 104-96 to grab sole possession of fifth place in the Eastern

Conference. Theo Ratliff chipped in 19 points, rookie Larry Hughes scored seveo of his 15 during a key fourth-quarter run and Enc snow dished out 10 assists for the Sixers, who have won five of their last six games.

In Atlanta. Steve Smith scored 13 of his 26 points in the decisive third quarter

However be in the final. "I didn't expect to get

his players were tired after a tough semi-final match against Uruguay on Wednesday and would be affected by the loss of star strike Shinji Ono through suspen-

He said the mood in the camp was excellent

World Youth Cup Japan, Spain clash for title

LAGOS (AFP) -- Japan, the first Asian side to play in the World Youth Championship final, can beat Spain Saturday to lift the trophy Saturday, said coach Philippe Troussier on Friday.

"We respect Spain, but we can still win," warned Troussier.

Frenchman, who two years ago was sacked as coach of Nigeria, admitted he was surprised to

this far," he said. Troussier added that

that Japan's progress was just part of a longer term development plan for co-hosting the 2002 World Cup. "Japan has many tal-

ented players... We came here as ambassadors. We knew that good results will help our World Cup preparation which has just taken the first step today," the Freochmao Troussier added.

Japan's strong perfor-mance in Nigeria showed it was a side to fear in 2002, he said.

"By the time we host the World Cup in 2002, Japan will no longer be underdogs. We have shown our potential to the world," adding that several of the junior players could be expected to star in Japan.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Pippen arrested for drunk driving

HOUSTON (AFP) - Seven-time All-Star forward Scottie Pippen of the Houston Rockets was arrested early Thursday morning and charged with driving while intoxicated. According to a Houston police spokesman, Pippen failed a field sobriery test and refused to take a breathalyser after he was pulled over for running a red light at about 1:30 a.m., hours after the Rockets were beaten at home by the Dallas Mavericks. "He passed a few cars and ran a red light into the oncoming lane when police pulled him over," said police spokesperson John Leggio. "The officers noted the alcohol odor on his breath and he showed signs of intoxication. He failed a field sobriety test and refused to take a breath test." Pippen was booked and later released on bail.

Zidane's staying with Juventus

TURIN (AFP) - French World Cup hero Zinedine Zidane will be staying at Juveotus for at least another season, the club's director general Luciano Moggi said Thursday, scotching rumours of the midfielder's departure. Zidane had expressed doubts about his future at the club before their European Cup defeat to Manchester United, while the Turin press called for him to sold off after his disappointing performance against Alex Ferguson's side. But Moggi insisted: "Zidane is staying with Juventus. "I have spoken to him again today and he is very happy to stay with us and bave great seasoo with us next season." Zidane, who only signed a new contract last year, had been linked earlier in the week with a move to Spain, reportedly to please his wife, who is of Spanish

Di Canio fined for spat with cop

TERNI, Italy (AFP) - West Hame footballer Paolo Di Canio was fined \$1,400 here on Friday following a row with a traffic policeman. The case dated back to June 10. 1997 when Di Canio was visiong Terni, his wife's home town, and tried to drive into an area restricted to permitholders. A row erupted when he was stopped by a traffic policeman, who later filed verbal abuse charges. The volatile striker has also been in trouble in the Premiership this season; getting banned for 11 games after pushing over referee Paul Alcock while playing for Sheffield Wednesday against Arsenal in September.

Three-time Olympian Seizinger retires

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) - Three-ome Olympic gold medallist Katja Seizinger announced her retirement on Friday.

Seizinger proved herself to be one of the greatest Alpine skiers in history when she wrote herself into the Olympic downhill record

No man or woman had ever successfully defended their Olympic downhill title — until the 1998 Nagano Winter Games, when Seizinger simply swept past the opposition. She also took the gold in the combined.

It was to prove to be her final moment of glory. Hopes of compeong in the 1999 World Championships in February in Vail, Colorado. were dashed by a training accident shortly after

The 26-year-old from Eberbach revealed her true class in the 1998 World Cup. winning six consecutive races, collecting three downhill and three super-giant wins in as many race days.

Her streak equalled that of Jean-Claude Killy, set in January, 1967. Seizinger was simply unstoppable. And unlike many competi-

tors Seizinger always judged her success on World Cup results rather than Olympic gold medals or World Championship titles. The World Cup is a circuit

that goes on for months, where you have to perfonn on a regular basis," she said. "The Olympic race is one

Despite holding double-Olympic champion status and winning the World Cup overall utle in 1996. Seizinger, the quiet and reserved daughter of a German industrialist defied the odds to reach the ski summit.

"I'm from the north, not the south where there are mountains," she explained. Up until the age six, I only skied during family holi-

days."
That changed when her father Hans decided to move the family to Eberbach near Heidelburg to suit the needs of his steel-making business. "From that moment, it all became easier," she said of

her skiing.
"Instead of skiing once a year, I skied once a week. My brother and I were good, but the federation got in

touch with me only when I

Seizinger managed to make up for lost rime as her skills rapidly improved during a spell at a sports college during her teenage years.

But late-blooming may have had its advantages, "I

was able to live a normal life

until 15 like everyone else." Seizinger said she never believed that she could become a champion.

"That's why I never really had an idol, though 1 did admire Switzerland's Maria

The German speed specialist has appeared on Olympic podiums four times, earning a hronze medal in the super-G at Albertville in 1992 as well as her 1994 and 1998 victories.

Despite her quiet superstar status, Seizinger prefered the team experience to the option - like Alberto Toniba and Deborah Compagnoni — of training exclusively with a personal coach, physiotherapy and psychological fitness staff.

"It would be difficult in the speed races to assign a private training piste to just one person," she says, "It's better for me to stay with the team.

"There's also a good compeduon between us. I've just never thought about training

The German will now devote herself to studying

when a Philippoussis return error yielded two match

points, of which Rios needed

Brazilian Gustavo Kuenen

continued his good times on

the clay, rolling into the

semifinals 6-3, 6-3 over

The 1996 French Open

winner got in a quick win in

64 minutes after waiting

through the nearly three-

hour contest staged earlier

by 15th seed Felix Manolla

and tournament No. 10

American Vince Spadea.

only one to advance,

Moya curses luck at Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO (AFP) — Holder Carlos Moya suffered a disheartening 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-0 quarterfinal defeat against French talent Jerome Golmard on Friday to crash out of the \$2.45 million Monte Carlo Open. The Spaniard, who picked

up presoge clay trophies last year in the principality and later at the French Open, was left adrift by the World No. 25 Golmard's top game under pressure. The Frenchman took treat-

ment for cramping in his right thigh at the end of the second set. And from then on, he could do no wrong. "He played unbelievable,

he was hitting winners everywhere," said World No. 2 Moya. "It happens. I was feeling desperate at the end. Mova said that the cramps must have somehow helped

his opponent. "After he cramped, he didn't miss a ball," said the former World No. 1. "He should cramp more often. It was like

a joke, everything he hit was a winner." Moya, 0-3 in the series added: "He ran like a rabbit and served unbelievably, the key to his win was his cramps. It was a oightmare for me. He should go to the casino tonight - he'll get

the hig one for sure." 1997 winner Marcelo Rios is next up for the French hero

after defeating Australian Mark Philippoussis 6-2, 6-7 (2/7), 6-4.The fifth-seeded Australian

was betrayed by 49 unforced

errors, only partially bal-anced by 11 aces in the one hour, 49-minute match. Rios dominated in the opening set but Philippoussis showed his

own form on the clay in the second. The Aussie went an early break down, but pulled back to force a tiebreaker, where he prevailed almost unchallenged.

In the third, the ninth-seeded Chilean broke for 2-0 and held to love for 3-0, but the Australian, winner of two titles already this year, pulled level at three games apiece. Rios finally won through

Carlos Costa. Manulla won the battle between Spanish friends 6-4, 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (7/4) and next plays the 1996 French Open winner from Brazil.

TAG Heuer official timekeeper for 1999 Alpine Ski World Championships at Vail, Colorado, USA

TAG Heuer has enjoyed the role of official timekeeper for the 1999 Alpine Ski World Championships. It represents the sort of technical and human challenge in the world of high-level competition that TAG Heuer has faced successfully for nearly 140 years. Since 1989, TAG Heuer has been the official timekeeper for FIS World Cup alpine races as well as supplier of timekeeping devices to the national ski reams of France and Canada.

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Since 1992, TAG Heuer has also been accumulating timekeeping experience in the world of Formula One motor racing.

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of the very spirit of sport.

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as the Hawks maintained

their hold on fourth place

in the East with a 106-94

victory over the Boston

Smith helped Atlanta

outscore the Celtics 30-13

in the third quarter as the

Hawks maintained a two-

lead

Philadelphia in the battle

for homecourt advantage

in the first round of the

playoffs. The Hawks improved to

3-0 since their leading

scorer, Smith, returned

In San Antonio, David

Robinson scored 18 points and Tim Duncan added 14

points and 10 rebounds as

spurs extended their win-

ning streak to five games

with a 103-76 pounding of

Malik Rose also chipped

in 14 points for the Spurs,

who pulled within two

games of the league-lead-

Michael Finley scored 20

points for Dallas, which

failed in its bid to win three

games in as many nights.

the Dallas Mavericks.

ing Utah Jazz.

from a sprained knee.

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| Sun. 25/4/99 | Salah Saloon | 05:00 p.m. | Zarqa Tel: 05/3902024 |
| Mon. 26/4/99 | Flix Centre | 11:00 a.m. | Airport Way, Beside Safeway Tel. 5811240 |
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personalities who love a challenging job in

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Yeltsin letter urges Arafat to postpone announcement of state

Minister Igor Ivanov on Friday delivered a letter from Boris Yeltsin to Yasser Arafat urging the Palestinian president to put off proclaiming a state on May

"This letter contains a request to the Palestinian leadership to delay any announcement of a state for a specified and limited period," Ivanov told journalists after meeting Arafat at his office in Ramallah in the West

"If there is a delay the resulting additional period should be used to intensify final status talks and fully implement the interim agreements," Ivanov

May 4 marks the end of the five-year interim period of the Oslo peace process whereupon Arafat has repeatedly threatened to declare a Palestinian state unilaterally.

In an attempt to garner support for the Palestinian position Arafat has recently undertaken a mammoth tour of world cap-

But most of the countries which he has visited, including the member states of the European Union, the United States and now Russia, have urged Arafat to delay proclaiming a state at least until after Israeli elections due May 17.

On Thursday, Ivanov and his Israeli counterpart Ariel Sharon clashed in public over the issue

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey urged to admit Armenian genocide

WASHINGTON (AFP) — More than 150 intellectuals, the

majority of them Turkish-Americans, called on the Turkish gov-

ernment Friday to admit that a genocidal campaign against eth-

nic Armenians was perpetrated under Turkish rule in 1915. "After

84 years the Turkish government continues to deny the genocide of the Armenians by blaming the victims and undermining his-

torical fact with false thetoric," according to the signatories of an

open letter published on a full-page of Friday's Washington Post.

Sanurday, April 24, will be the anniversary of the beginning of the

genocide the letter said. An official campaign to exterminate

Turkey's Aremenian population was conducted between 1894

and 1915, and sporadically thereafter. Among the signatories to

the letter were numerous university professors, sociologists, his-

torians, theologians and farmous writers including Norman

Mailer, Wole Soyinka, William Styron, John Updike and Knrt

Vonnegut. "The Armenian Genocide was the most dramatic

human rights issue of the time and was reported regularly in

newspapers across the U.S." the signatories wrote. "Denial of

genocide strives to reshape history in order to demonise the vic-

tims and rehabilitate the perpetrators. Denial of genocide is the

RAFAH (AFP) --- Some 100 Palestinian youths stoned Israeli

soldiers in Gaza Strip on Friday in protest at the seizure of a dis-

puted site by Jewish settlers, witnesses said. The soldiers shel-

tered in half a dozen military vehicles at the site near the Jewish

settlement of Morag in the southern Gaza Strip and did not

respond to the stoning, the witnesses said. Earlier, around 300

worshippers attended Friday prayers and heard a speech from

final stage of genocide," they continued.

Palestinians stone Israeli soldiers

the occupied Golan Heights. "We believe that Israel and Syria must resume peace talks

from the point at which the peace talks ended," Ivanov told a joint press conference. Negotiations broke off in

February 1996 and Syria has demanded Israel concede the strategic Golan plateau, which it captured in 1967 and illegally annexed in 1981, before talks can resume.

Then-Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres agreed in principle to pull back from the Golan in exchange for a peace treaty and security guarantees from

But Sharon said Israel's position was that the two sides must meet without any pre-condi-

We want to sit around a table, have each side present its position and reach peace with security for Israel," he said.

He added that his personal view is that Israel should not withdraw from an inch of the Golan, but that is not necessarily the government view.

"My personal opinion is well-known, I am against any kind of withdrawal from the Golan, but I presented the govemment view to Ivanov, not my own personal view," Sharon

Sharon took Ivanov on a helicopter tour of the Golan and West Bank on Thursday to show him Israel's "strategic needs.

Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu and Sharon consid-

er significant parts of the Golan Heights to be of strategic importance to Israel. They also consider about half the West Bank to be essential "security zones" which cannot be turned over to Palestinian control.

Meanwhile, a senior Palestinian official lashed out on Friday at the helicopter tour of the West Bank taken by Ivanov and Sharon.

"I find it strange that Ivanov should have taken the trip over the occupied West Bank accompanied by Sharon, It's an unprecedented step for any international official to take," said Palestinian cabinet secretary Ahmad Abdul Rahman.

"It had been assumed that Ivanov would tour the West Bank accompanied by Palestinian officials because it is occupied Palestinian land," he told AFP.

"He could then have been briefed on the dangers to the peace process posed by Israeli settlement activity and not on what Sharon calls Israel's secuity requirements." Abdul Rahman said.

But Ivanov stressed that the trip implied no dilution in Russian support for the Palestinians.

"I stress again the Russian position on Palestine stands. which is that we support the right of the Palestinians to an independent state," he said.

"Our position on [Jewish] settlements is also unchanced and that is that they should be stopped, Ivanov said.

Ecevit

in final

vote tally

ANKARA (AFP) — Prime

Minister Bulent Ecevit's

Democratic Left Party (DSP)

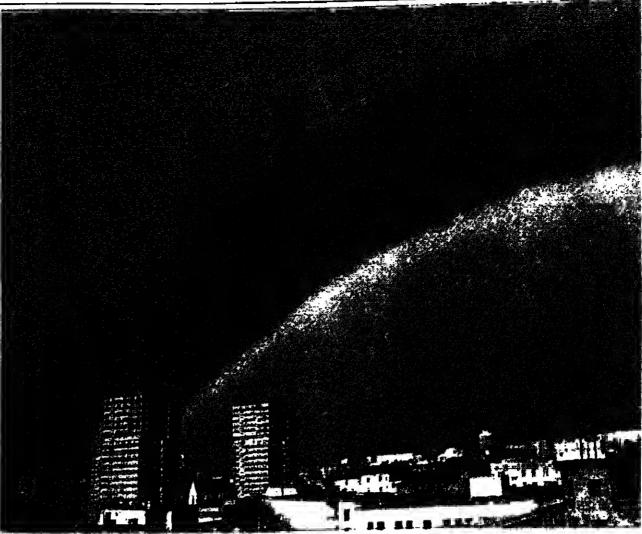
won 22.1 per cent of the vote

in Turkey's general election,

according to results given by

ahead of

nationalists



and the second s

NOT IN JORDAN: A double rainbow can be seen over the city of Halle, eastern Germany, after a thunderstorm on Friday (AP photo)

U.N. rights body condemns Israel on territories, Iraq for 'widespread terror'

GENEVA (Agencies) — The United Nations' main human rights body on Friday condemned Israeli activities in the occupied Arab territories, citing "continued violations" such as tomme of Palestinians.

The U.N. Commission on Human Rights, holding its six-week session. adopted a resolution which slammed Israel for detaining thousands of Palestinians without trial and the "expropriation of Palestinian homes" in east Jenusalem.

The text — presented by 21 states including many Islamic countries such as Egypt.

forum in Geneva, with only Washington siding with the Jewish state, its traditional ally. The resolution also accused

Israel's government of con-

tempt for the principles of the Middle East peace process. It said all Israeli settlements in territories occupied since 1967 were illegal and "constituted a flagrant violation" of

international law. israel's delegate took the floor to denounce the continued "discrimination" of being "singled out" as a separate agenda stem at the commission

and other multilateral fora. "Being the only country to have a full agenda item devoted to us is one of the manifestations of this shameful phe-

the state of Israel."

The commission also adopted two other texts critical of Israel's human rights record. one focusing on the Golan Heights and a milder, more general text presented by 33 states including several

European Union countries. The European-sponsored motion expressed "grave concera" at an increase in Israeli ventiement activities and urged Israel to match its stated commitment to the peace process

with actions. Also Friday, the Imagi regime was charged by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights with sowing "widespread terror" among the pop-

A resolution against tra

all ritual at the 53-member as "one-sided attacks against. Union mustered 35 votes, with none against and 18 absten-

> The text accused Iraq of "systematic, widespread and extremely grave" human rights violations, resulting in "allpervasive" repression and oppression sustained broad-based discrimination and widespread terror."

In Iraq, the abuses included summary and arbitrary executions, including political killings, disappearances and the so-called "clean-out of prisons.

The Iraqi delegate said the resolution was shameful, unbalanced and far from the

The delegate accused the United States and Britain of

warfare. But the inspectors "did not abling its main livestock only destroy those parts but have disabled the whole factory," Sinan Abdul Hassan

the Associated Press.

Al Ani. the plant director.

small heaps of scrap dotted mantled. In New York, Ewen Buchanan, spokesman for U.N.

Sex on the menu in former Saigon

HANOLIRI --- Severiment services are on the menu at more 75 हार जार तो एक्स्प्रहारों है Vermen's Ho Chi Mash Cay, an official daily reported on finding Sugar Gus Phone was the of or 40 attack market revenues in the cap formatly called Sagern, Wi were a from for this can coulde hoes! Bis त्या त्या क्राकेस्ट रुप्त वेसंह क्रिक hard-hoking as second manorune. "The trade services reflective with the unit Williams ransi beenues and refused as प्राप्तवं (स्वाप्तवस्थायः कः !. other resources, which showed HARLEAND OF DOING HAVE AND AND HE unhealth husiness, the paper

Aussian

ATO's

Party offers TM to NATO troops

BRUSSFLS IN ... The European Maramal Natiral Law Part has offered to coverin 10,000 NATO trops in the Balkans training in transcenden-tal mediation. Natural Law Party leaders from might European Union Alter sent an open letter to NATO and the EU explaining that medianon and vogic flying — a type of crosslegged kritisten - would "are are un atmosphere in which a stable solution will manually emerge" for the Bulkers our flict Daily training in the seals miques wreld marks treeps to reestablish lumners in the region "not by talking or bombing but by radiating person the porty said. The mety appealed for practitioners of your flying to converge agrandi it the Creation reserved Dube with in generate an autorophere - l'peace throughout the regional

Robotic bird hunters eliminate danger to planes

QUEBEC CTITY R: -Collisions between bank and adicials a sensor sum problem worldwide, have been vimable eliminated at Quehec Circ's airbox gaundy gre nee or ware Transcry." Silhenettes of "Intracts" (vi tripods near the nanways spin around emuting head marchetlike hangs every four marries. while other propune proceed devices immute the nevertent of falcons taking off to attack pres. This is a world first life way effective." Jacques Prayes presedent of environmental services company Agn-Sa, told Reuters The number of collisions at the airport was cut to one from 21 in 1998, leaving airport officials to believe they are saving lives.

World's oldest football on sale

EDINBURGH R - The world's oldest football, a 400year-old others with a most pedigree, will go on display for the first time in certains. Scoush museum officials said Made of a pig's bladder and wrapped in leather, the small ball probably belonged to Mary Queen of Sales and dates from 1560 or 1570, said Michael Meginnes, director of collections at the Smith Art Callery and Museum in Sarling. The ball, about a third the size of those used in trein's game, was found hidden behind pareling in the Starting castle beachamber of Mary, the Cathelic pretender to queen Elizabeth's throne at England who was later beheaded by the Protestant manageh.

Public reading of Don Quixote

MADRID (R) - A film-make and a judge joured ministers and where in Madrid to read about a 17th century Stemand who thought windmills were gones. Peruvian autime Marki Vargas Llosa started a three-kin public reading of Miguel De Contantes 17th contary masterpiere "Don Quixone" in Madrid's Circulo De Bellas Artes. "Down in a village of La Mancha, the name of which I have no desire to recollect." declarmed Vargos Llosa at the start of the reading. Spein's most famous literary week tells the story of an old gentlemen who thinks he is a knight after reading too many chinaling tales, and sets out on a series of adver-

Pakistan and Sudan — was adopted with 31 votes in finour, 21 abstentions and only the United States voting nomenon, ne suo Condemnation of Israel has U.S. Ambassador Nancy presented to the 53-member people by continuing their become something of an annu-Rubin criticised the resolutions commission by the European embargo against the country.

the Anatolia news agency on Friday with all votes counted. Ecevit's DSP is now set to become the biggest voting bloc in the 550-seat parliament with 136 seats, compared to 76 seats it held in the

outgoing parliament. Second was the extremeright Nationalist Action Party (MHP), which garnered a surprising 18.0 per cent. The party, which has been absent from parliament for the past 22 years, will now command 130 seats, according to the unofficial results.

The pro-religious Virtue Party (FP) came in third place with 15.3 per cent despite pre-elections polls that the Islamists be secondplaced in Sunday's polls.

The FP will now have 110 members of parliament, as opposed to 144 deputies in the outgoing assembly which had given them the upper

The two rival conservative parties led by Mesut Yilmaz and Tansu Ciller, both ex-premiers, come in last, according to the unofficial results.

With 13.2 per cent, Yilmaz' Motherland Party (ANAP) has the edge over Ciller's True Path Party (DYP), which has 12.0 per cent. The percentages correspond to 86 seats for Yilmaz and 85 for

Mubarak briefs Israeli president on talks with Arafat

decide.

President Hosni Mubarak met Israeli President Ezer Weizman on Thursday, less than two weeks ahead of what Palestinians see as a deadline

for the birth of an independent Mubarak said be had briefed his counterpart on his discus-Wednesday with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who insists he has the right to proclaim a state on May 4, when an interim peace period with

Israel expires. He did not say whether Arafat intended to go ahead with a move in the teeth of a said. "I believe whatever the threat by Israeli Prime results of the election... we will Minister Netanyahu to hit back by sue and carry on the peace annexing parts of the West

"I think the Palestinians will take the right decision not to create much more problems in the atmosphere now," try an Mubarak told a joint news added. conference after three hours of

"The Palestinian [National] Council will meet on April 27. I hope they will not take a decision that will affect the peace process," he said, refer- earlier position, saying: "I do ring to the Palestinian parlia- not have the authority to par-

national pressure to defer any proclamation at least until after the Israeli May 17 election. Egypt has pledged to support whatever the Palestinians

Weizman declined to give his own views on whether the Palestinians should have their sion of the issue on own state. Everything is to be negotiated. I must be very diplomatic with you," he said. The Israeli president said that regardless of the outcome of his country's election, the

peace process should go on. "Unfortunately it ... is not in a very healthy situation now," he Benyamin have a good alternative to purprocess and to settle the affairs with Palestinians," he said. "And inshallah [God will-

ing] we will also go to Syria and find a way with them and try and build together," he Asked if Egypt was ready to free Azzam Azzam, an Arab

Israeli sentenced by an Egyptian court in 1997 to 15 years in jail for spying for Israel, Mubarak reiterated his

'U.N. arms monitors destroyed Iraq animal vaccine factory'

DAURA (AP) - Iraq on make weapons for germ Thursday accused U.N. disarmament experts of disvaccine plant by destroying 28 major pieces of equipment during a search related to biological weapons. The charge by plant direc-

tor Muntasir Al Ani disputes claims by chief U.N. weapons inspector Richard Butler that the factory is still capable of producing the vaccines. The government took for-

eign media representatives on a guided tour Thursday of the plant in Daura, 20 kilometres south Baghdad. Entangled pieces destroyed equipment and

the sprawling facility. Ventilation pipes and sluices were chopped off at several places. One autoclave, in the shape of a circular container for sterilising and heating, was left intact while another in an adjacent room was cut to pieces.

The U.N. inspectors had raided the plant in 1996 to dismantle equipment that Iraq acknowledged was installed in the plant to facility."

Iraq's National

Monitoring Directorate told The directorate coordinated U.N. disarmament activities in the country.

said the inspectors spared some 40 pieces of equipment but also foamed. cemented and chopped off the factory's air-handling system without which it will be impossible to start production. He did not give details of the other 28 equipment that were dis-

Special Commission which Butler heads, said Thursday: "The reason why we destroyed it was because the Iraqis admitted themselves that they had indeed turned the place into a biological weapons factory producing the deadly agent botulinum toxim. We did not destroy it because it was a vaccine

Turkey hails British bar on Kurdish satellite station

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey on Friday hailed a decision by British regulators to revoke the licence of Kurdish satellite television Med-TV for violating rules on incitement.

"This shows that the Turkish republic can achieve all its targets if it pursues its just cases with determination," Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said in

Britain's Independent Television Commission (ITC) said Friday that Med-TV's licence was "revoked" fol-

"Whatever sympathy there may be in the United Kingdom for the Kurdish people, it is not in the public interest to have any broadcaster use the U.K. as a platform for broadcasts which incite people to violence," ITC chairman, Sir Robin Biggam, said in a statement.

The revocation will take effect in 28 days, the ITC added. There are some circles that have

encourage or incite crime or lead to dis- Turkish nation will determined to prevent terrorism." Ecevit added.

The ITC's decision comes after a 21day suspension of the station's licence for breaching rules of incitement to commit crime or violence in broadcasts following the capture of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan in February. which triggered mass demonstrations

by Kurds accross European cities. At the time, Ankara had told London that Med-TV was responsible for probeen trying for years to spread terror-voking a string of bloody bombing lowing broadcasts that were "likely to ism and violence in Turkey, but the attacks in Turkey since Ocalan's cap-

of some 20 people and wounded scores

Turkey claims the London-based Med-TV is the mouthpiece of Ocalan's Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for an independent homeland since 1984 in the southeast-

Ocalan, jailed on a heavily-guarded prison island, is currently awaiting a treason trial for which the Turkish penal code stipulates capital punishment

-ssia bac

local deputy Suleiman Al Rumi in which he called for Palestinians from the Rafah area to continue to resist settlement activity, saying that any price was worth paying to defend the land. Worshippers chanted slogans denouncing Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu before the youths broke away and starting stoning the nearby Israeli soldiers, the witnesses said. Israeli sheli wounds three Lebanese

Lebanon village Friday, wounding three civilians, Lebanese security officials said. Salim Younes, 70, and his 35-year-old son, Mohammad, received shrapnel wounds when the 155-mm shell exploded as they were fixing the family tractor outside their home in the village of Kfar Tibnit. Khairiyeh Nahleh, 33, was also wounded, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The shell crashed some 60 metres from a Lebanese army checkpoint in Kfar Tibnit, which is just outside an Israeli-occupied border enclave in southern Lebanon. The village lies four kilometres

NABATTYEH (AP) - An Israeli shell landed in a south

Russian missiles arrive on Crete

southwest of the market town of Nabatiyeh.

ATHENS (R) — Russian anti-aircraft missiles have arrived on the Greek island of Crete after Turkey strongly objected to plans to install them in Cyprus, the Greek government said on Thursday. The S-300 surface-to-air missiles were ordered from Russia by the Cypriot government in a bid to counter Turkish air superiority over the divided island. Turkey reacted angrily to news of the order, threatening to use force to prevent the missiles arriving on Cyprus. Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides reached an agreement with the Greek government earlier this year to install the missiles in Crete. Clerides had come under pressure from Washington and the European Union to cancel the order, for fear that it might heighten tension between Greece and Turkey.

'One Iraqi killed in U.S. strikes'

BAGHDAD (AFP) — One Iraqi was killed and four others wounded Thursday in U.S. air strikes on military targets in the northern no-fly zone, an Iraqi military spokesman said. "A citizen was killed and four others were wounded in U.S. bombardments of military sites in the north of the country." said the spokesman, quoted by the official INA news agency. He added that "U.S. and British airplanes coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait violated Iraqi air space in the south of the country," without giving word on casualties or damage there.